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M-19, GOVERNMENT TRUCE ACCORD EFFECTIVE 7 JAN

PA080259 Paris AFP in Spanish 0211 GMT 8 Jan 85

[Text] Bogota, 7 Jan (AFP) -- The April Movement [M-19] guerrillas and the Colombian Government officially agreed to a cease-fire today, thus ending the fighting that had been taking place in Corinto, southwestern Colombia, for almost a month.

There were many casualities on both sides during these confrontations caused by the Army's decision to prevent the establishment of an M-19 stronghold in Corinto. The casualty figures have not been officially released.

The clashes also provoked the exodus of several hundred peasants, mostly women and children, who were trapped in the cross fire. They took refugee in the towns of Corinto and Florida, where they created food and housing problems.

The agreement that was achieved today establishes the gradual withdrawal, in a matter of days, of the guerrillas to a new area where the government will guarantee their return to civilian and political life.

According to all indications, the M-19 will withdraw towards Tolima Department, located closer to the center of the country but on the central mountain range.

Official delegates will remain in the area to watch over the fulfillment of the agreements, especially the withdrawal of the guerrillas, and protect the Peace Commission and the commission for the resettlement of peasants.

The commitment is based on the truce agreement signed by the government and guerrillas on 24 August 1984, which, like the one signed today, does not mention the surrender of weapons by the M-19. As a result the M-19 will probably move to its new location with its weapons.

The members of government commission returned to Bogota tonight after holding talks all day long with the M-19 leaders in the San Pablo mountains near Corinto.

Shortly after their arrival, the Government (Interior) Ministry and the presidential palace press office issued the following communique:

"An agreement was achieved today, Monday, 7 January 1985, to normalize the public order situation in the zone of Corinto in Cauca Province, especially that of the peasants living in the area which has been affected by recent events.

"According to the agreement, the M-19 members who are now in the area of the clashes will move to a new area within a reasonable number of days. This is the result of the two parties' decision to respect the truce and national dialogue agreement signed in Corinto, El Hobo, and Medellin, on 24 August 1984.

"The agreement, which seeks the consolidation of a peace process, guarantees that the public officials will provide the M-19 with the conditions to live and act within the framework of the 24 August agreement and the Colombian laws in general, which imply the institutional presence of said authorities throughout our national territory.

"To guarantee the effective fulfillment of the agreement, officials from the Attorney General's Office and the Government Ministry will remain in the zone of the conflict in order to guarantee the cease-fire and movement of the M-19 units and protect the representatives of the peace, negotiations, and dialogue commissions.

"The normal development of the cease-fire and the national dialogue continue to be the main goals of this government and those who are in the process of returning to the country's civil and political life, through the achievement of peace with justice in Colombia."

The document was signed by Jaime Ossa Arbelaez, deputy attorney general of the nation, and Commissioners Horacio Serpa Uribe, Antonio Duque Alvarez, and Bernardo Ramirez, on behalf of the government; Alvaro Fayad, Carlos Pizarro, Antonio Navarro Wolff, German Rojas Nino, and Marco Antonio Chalita, on behalf of the M-19.

Basic Points of Agreement

PA050113 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2342 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Text] Bogota 4 Jan (EFE) -- M-19 today agreed after a long meeting with personal envoys of President Belisario Betancur to move from their camps in the highlands of San Pablo to the southwestern part of the country. Alvaro Fayad, member of the M-19 superior command, and Bernardo Ramirez, Colombian ambassador to Great Britain and President Betancur's personal envoy to the negotiations, signed a document containing three basic points by which the M-19 agrees to abandon the mountains of Corinto.

Since 12 December 1984 the Colombian Army and the guerrillas of the M-19, led by Carlos Pizarro Leon-Gomez, have clashed sporadically for possession of the San Pablo highlands and the Yarumales Mountain near the town of Corinto.

The basic points of the agreement, according to Emisoras CARACOL Network, are the following:

1. The M-19 agrees to abandon its camps in the highlands of San Pablo and on the Yarumales Mountain and will move to an agreed-upon zone beyond the mountain range, somewhere near Tolima Department, alongside the region troubled by armed clashes during the past 3 weeks.

2. The M-19 guerrillas have between 2 to 4 weeks to abandon the zone.

3. Two members of the Attorney General's Office, two from the Government Ministry, and two from the Colombian Red Cross will remain in the region until the M-19 leaves to see that the cease-fire is complied with so that the guerrillas can evacuate the region.

CARACOL reported that the Colombian Army, which had surrounded the guerrilla camp since 12 December, accepted the agreement signed by presidential envoy Bernardo Ramirez and Alvaro Fayad, M-19 second in command.

Another report says that Government Minister Jaime Castro Castro was a member of the high-level commission that left early this Friday morning for the site of the clashes which left at least 18 dead, sources from the 3d Brigade reported.

Since the signing of the truce and the cease-fire between the M-19 and the government on 24 August 1984, the conflict that ended today has been the most serious in the Colombian pacification process.

BRIEFS

MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE -- Bogota -- The national government on 2 January issued a decree approving the resolution of the National Wage Council that set the new legal minimum wage at 451.92 pesos a day. This is equivalent to a 20-percent increase in the wages of approximately 3 million Colombian workers. [Summary] [Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 3 Jan 85 PA]

CHIEF OF JOINT STAFF INSTALLED; BELAUNDE SPEAKS

PY041506 Lima Cadena Panamericana Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Text] President Belaunde today praised the attitude of the Armed Forces to resolutely support constitutional order and the security and development of the country. He made these remarks during a ceremony held to install the new chief of the Joint Staff.

[Begin report] The installation ceremony of the new chief of the Joint Staff, Air Force General Cesar Enrico Praelli, was held this morning in the Golden Hall of Government Palace. Gen Praelli is replacing Admiral Ricardo Zevallos Newton who has retired. The ceremony, which was presided over by the head of state, was also attended by the prime minister, the aeronautics and navy ministers, and high-ranking officers of the Navy, the Air Force, and the Army. Also present were the commanders who make up the Joint Staff.

In his speech, the new chief of the Joint Staff pledged, on behalf of the Armed Forces, to eliminate subversion and terrorism in Peru without giving any leeway or accepting any conditions. He said that this is a duty to the fatherland and the coming generations and that it is a complex task, but that the Armed Forces are prepared to carry it out successfully.

In turn, President Belaunde once again emphasized the need for coordination that must exist between the government and the Armed Forces. Let us listen to his comments.

[Begin recording] A few months before I step down from the high position conferred upon me by the people I must state, while looking ahead, that the country's well being and security require that the government and the military always agree and that very close relations be maintained in view of the fact that the Armed Forces constitute, from an education and development point of view, a tool of the first magnitude. Therefore, very close contact must be maintained and I take this opportunity to suggest to those who will succeed me in this high-level position that they continue the task that we have so successfully carried out, one of very close coordination with the Armed Forces, of unending intelligence concerning the noble mission of the nation's defense, sovereignty, and tasks.

I wish this Joint Staff success in the fulfillment of its delicate task, and at this time I commit myself to fully cooperate in fulfilling the two-fold mission of defending the country and promoting the country's development.

Thank you very much. [applause] [end recording] [end report]

BELAUNDE PRAISES TEXTILE AGREEMENT WITH U.S.

PY041328 Lima Televisora Lima in Spanish 0300 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Text] A bilateral U.S.-Peruvian agreement on textiles that will enable our country to secure some $200 million was signed on 3 January. The signing ceremony was presided over by Prime Minister Luis Percovich Roca.

[Begin report] A 5-year bilateral agreement is now being signed at the Hall of Ceremonies in Torre Tagle Palace [the Foreign Ministry]. In attendance are Prime Minister Luis Percovich Roca; Industry, Tourism, and Integration Minister Alvaro Becerra Sotero; and U.S. Ambassador David Jordan.

The agreement will allow Peru to expand its textile exports up to $1.2 billion. According to a statement made by the president of the Republic, this document is very important because it will allow Peru to recover, to normalize, and to expand textile sales abroad by increasing its foreign currency income.

The ceremony was presided over by Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Luis Percovich Roca.

[Begin Balunde recording] This agreement is of great importance to Peru not only because it allows us to enter into an important market, as is the case with the United States, and to export nontraditional products like textiles, but also because of the type of agreement and its clauses, which will permit us over the next few years to increase and to diversify our exports. This is proof that the U.S. Government understands our problems, and it will stimulate efforts being made by the private sector, which is supported by the government, to step up the export of nontraditional products in such an impo ant line as textiles. [end recording] [end report]

YUGOSLAV FIRM TO BE PAID $70-MILLION DEBT IN KIND

PY051242 Lima OAY-4Z Television Service in Spanish 0200 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Excerpt] Peru will pay 50 percent of its overdue debt, approximately $70 million, with products. Peru owes this money to the Yugoslav firm of Energo Project, which carried out the construction and reconstruction of the (Jira)-Piura irrigation project. Economy Minister Guillermo Garrido Leca made the announcement that the Yugoslav firm has agreed to this form of payment at a press conference.

BRIEFS

SUPREME COURT PRESIDENT -- Cesar Barros Conti will assume the presidency of the Supreme Court of Justice on 2 January. [Excerpt] [Lima Radio del Pacifico in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 Jan 85 PY]

AIR FORCE INSPECTOR INSTALLED -- During a ceremony held at the Peruvian Air Force Headquarters, Peruvian Air Force Chief of Staff Cesar Enrico Prealli yesterday installed Major General Julio (Asquez) Ramirez as general inspector of the Peruvian Air Force. [Excerpt] [Lima Radio del Pacifico in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 Jan 85 PY]

PRIVATE UNIVERSITY -- The Peruvian Congress promulgated on 3 January the law establishing the Tacna Private University. [Excerpt] [Lima Radio del Pacifico in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Jan 85 PY]

MEDICAL CENTER EMPLOYEES STRIKE FOR HIGHER WAGES

PY072020 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1531 GMT 7 Jan 85

[Text] Montevideo, 7 Jan (EFE) -- A 24-hour stoppage organized by the Uruguayan Health Federation [Federacion Uruguaya de la Salud -- FUS] is being observed by almost all Uruguayan medical centers, which are only treating emergency cases. The FUS decided to call the strike since the managements of four private health organizations have not reached an agreement with their employees who are demanding a 25-percent salary increase as well as other demands that were partially granted to most organizations.

The 24-hour strike started at 0000 today, Monday, 7 January and will last until 2400 with the occupation of all hospitals. The measures of force began last week with partial stoppages in shifts, as a means to exert pressure on the management while a solution to the FUS' demands was being sought.

Now, in view of the four private organizations' firm determination, the FUS has decided to strike. However, this decision was not unanimously supported by the employees of all health organizations since those who are already enjoying the benefits and whose demands have already been attended to run the risk of being punished for not appearing at work. The FUS announced that if the problem is not solved between today and tomorrow it will organize another 24-hour strike on Wednesday.

EXILED STUDENT ARRESTED ON DEPARTURE FOR SPAIN

PY071340 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0058 GMT 6 Jan 85

[Text] Montevideo, 6 Jan (EFE) -- Police officials today arrested Uruguayan student Liliana Perez at Montevideo international airport as she was about to board a plane for Madrid. Liliana Perez was living in exile in Spain and she had returned to Uruguay to spend the Christman holidays with her family. The Uruguayan Consulate in Madrid had issued to Perez the appropriate papers allowing her to enter Uruguay, and Uruguayan immigration officials had allowed her to enter the country. Her relatives said tonight that they had no knowledge of the reasons for her arrest, or why she was later taken to Motevideo police headquarters. Official sources refuse to comment on this incident which is unusual, since exiles are often detained by authorities upon their return to Uruguay, but never when they are about to leave the country.

Student Released

PY081140 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0036 GMT 8 Jan 85

[Excerpt] Montevideo, 7 Jan (EFE) -- Uruguayan student Liliana Perez who yesterday was arrested at Montevideo international airport when she was about to leave for Spain was released by police officials today. This information was confirmed tonight by Hugo Batalla, a lawyer and politician of the Broad Front coalition, who said that her arrest was caused by the lack of coordination between police and judicial officials with regard to exiles who are returning to the country. Liliana Perez had returned to Uruguay after living in exile in Spain since 1975.

BRIEFS

AMBASSADOR TO INDIA -- Aureliano Aguirre, the new Uruguayan ambassador to India, has presented his credentials to Indian President Zail Singh. [Summary] [Monte-video EL DIA in Spanish 22 Dec 84 p 8 PY]

MORALES PAUL ON MEDIATION IN GUYANA DISPUTE

Denies Seeking Guyanese Mediator

PA061710 Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 29 Dec 84 p 1-1

[Text] Venezuelan Foreign Minister Isidro Morales Paul has denied a report that appeared in our 28 December edition on an alleged change in the solution mechanisms stated in the Geneva Agreement [to settle the Venezuela-Guyana border dispute]. The report, attributed to "reliable sources in the Yellow Palace" [Casa Amarilla, Foreign Ministry], indicated that the Venezuelan Foreign Ministry had asked Guyana's former Foreign Minister Shridath Surendranath Ramphal to mediate in the claims on the Essequibo territory. The request would mean that UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's intervention as mediator in the dispute would be postponed.

At the Yellow Palace, newsmen questioned Foreign Minister Morales Paul on his reaction to the report. "That report is absolutely false because a national from a country we are at odds with cannot serve as mediator," the minister replied. He pointed out that Shridath Surendranath Ramphal is Commonwealth secretary general and is of Guyanese nationality. For that reason it is absurd to think that he can serve as mediator, the minister explained. Morales Paul stated that the Geneva Agreement remains fully in force and that Diego Cordovez, the special envoy on this issue, will soon arrive in our country.

Despite Morales Paul's categorical denial, it was confirmed last night that Foreign Ministry adviser Emilio Figueredo Planchart was sent to London at the order of the foreign minister to contact Guyana's former Foreign Minister Shridath Surendranath Ramphal. The envoy accomplished his mission of conveying Venezuelan interest in the Commonwealth secretary general serving as mediator on matters relating to Venezuela's claims on the Essequibo territory. Morales Paul did not consult beforehand or report on the results of the initiative to the Foreign Affairs Advisory Committee [CARE].

Taking advantage of the relaxation of tensions between the two countries that has prevailed in the past months, Morales Paul will travel to Guyana in early January to discuss several issues.

At the same time, Venezuela and Guyana are awaiting the UN secretary general's proposals on ways to peacefully solve the border dispute.

During its first meeting in January, CARE will study the Foreign Ministry's proposal that Shridath Surendranath Ramphal, Guyana's former foreign minister and currect Commonwealth secretary general, serve as mediator in the claims on the Essequibo territory. Marcos Falcon Briceno, former foreign minister and CARE chairman, gave this information to EL UNIVERSAL, but declined to comment further on the matter. Falcon Briceno stated that this is one of the topics CARE will discuss during its first meeting in early January.

Issues Declaration

PA061802 Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 30 Dec 84 p 1-1

[Text] Foreign Minister Isidro Morales Paul today confirmed the validity of the Geneva Agreement establishing that the United Nations is the organization that will determine the most adequate and suitable method to solve the territorial dispute with Guyana. Yesterday, Miraflores Palace issued a statement from the Foreign Ministry on this subject. The statement follows:

Declaration by Foreign Minister Isidro Morales Paul regarding an alleged substitution of the mechanisms established by the Geneva Agreement to deal with the dispute:

1. The Geneva Agreement, which establishes that the secretary general of the United Nations will choose the most adequate and suitable method to solve the controversy, is fully in effect. In this regard, Mr Diego Cordovez, special representative of the secretary general, will come to Venezuela at the beginning of 1985.

2. Therefore, it is not true that this mechanism has been substituted for another.

3. However, this does not exclude the fact that the parties can exchange ideas and study diverse alternatives for a solution. We have done this on several occasions with representatives of Guyana and, obviously, we will have these kinds of discussions with President Burnham during his visit from 6 to 9 February, but always respecting what is established in the Geneva Agreement.

4. In any event, the Foreign Affairs Advisory Committee can and must study various solution alternatives that can contribute to solving the controversy and advise the executive on this very important matter.

Miraflores, 29 December 1984

FOREIGN MINISTER ON CONTADORA, URUGUAYAN TIES

PA061403 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 27 Dec 84 p D 15

[Text] The Contadora Group foreign ministers will meet again in Panama City in early January, before the inauguration of Nicaraguan President-elect Daniel Ortega. Venezuelan Foreign Minister Isidro Morales Paul made this announcement shortly before a luncheon that he hosted for the Foreign Ministry press corps. At the January meeting, he said, he will review the 95-page document with the objections made by the foreign ministers of El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica, and Panama on behalf of their governments. We will also seek alternatives that will allow us to overcome current obstacles.

We also spoke with the foreign minister regarding other matters. For example, we asked him about the possibility of resuming diplomatic relations with Uruguay, particularly in view of President-elect Julio Maria Sanguinetti's statements that he hoped relations would be resumed. We also asked if there had been any contact. The foreign minister said: The truth is that nothing has been discussed; however, I have no doubt that once the democratic government assumes power in Uruguay, Venezuela will have no objection to reestablishing relations. With regard to reports that mention a threat by the Ecuadoran Government to withdraw from the Andean Pact, the foreign minister said: Actually, the information I have is that Ecuador has seen the need to examine some rules of the game in the Andean Pact; but there are absolutely no plans for the withdrawal of any nation. Then the foreign minister announced that he will head the delegation that will represent Venezuela at the inauguration of Nicaraguan President-elect Daniel Ortega. The members of that delegation have not been chosen.

Returning to the topic of relations with Uruguay, the minister reported that the resumption of relations must take place after President Sanguinetti takes office. However, in any case, the final decision is up to the president of the Republic, he noted. Responding to a question on the Colombian reply to the protest note on the incident at Castilletes, the minister said that the Venezuelan Government expects no reply.

DE LA MADRID DISCUSSES ECONOMIC SITUATION

PA071207 Paris AFP in Spanish 0311 GMT 7 Jan 85

[Text] Mexico City, 6 Jan (AFP) -- Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid today acknowledged that "the main problem to be overcome" in his country "continues to be the economic problem and, of course, its social effects." De la Madrid made this statement during his New Year's greeting to the Mexican people broadcast on a radio and television national network.

In a lengthy analysis of the current Mexican situation, De la Madrid stressed: "We Mexicans are waging a difficult and extended battle to overcome this profound crisis, which is mainly the result of an accumulation of problems that emerged in our country over the years." According to the president, "In the economic area, we have overcome the most threatening aspects of the crisis," including, he stressed, the lowering of the inflation rate and the reactivation of the production system. De la Madrid also recalled that sudden devaluations were prevented, that a surplus in the trade balance was achieved, "the production activities and employment were protected," and "we have overcome the risk we faced in late 1982 and part of 1983 when there was the possibility of a mass closure of businesses and the unavoidable growth of unemployment." The president emphasized that the economic measures were adopted "without harsh confrontations among ourselves," and stressed that "we Mexicans must be aware and satisfied with having faced this crisis at its most serious moments and having kept the institutions of the Republic and the political, social, and economic systems we have given ourselves on a solid and firm basis." The Mexican president also mentioned the recent increases in the price of public services and said that "these have been difficult but necessary decisions." We cannot ignore the truth, he added, because this has gotten us into the problems we are confronting today. De la Madrid added that had these measures not been adopted, social programs would have been cut and "we cannot stop offering these services because this would further affect our living standards." De la Madrid also recalled the measures to decentralize public administration and those of moral control of the officials and urged the Mexicans to participate in the elections to be held this year and to ensure that these will be clean and legal.

SEPULVEDA SEES PROGRESS IN CONTADORA EFFORTS

PA080026 Paris AFP in Spanish 1804 GMT 7 Jan 85

[By Eduardo P. Kragelund]

[Text] Mexico City, 7 Jan (AFP) -- "We have achieved a higher stage of understanding" and today there is "a better possibility of finding the path" toward the signing of the peace treaty for the region proposed by the Contadora Group, Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda announced.

In an exclusive interview with AFP, the secretary revealed that a series of informal meetings were recently held in Mexico with high-ranking officials of the foreign ministries of the five Central American countries with the object of "finding common denominators" in response to the objections raised against the treaty by Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. "It is too early to determine what the common denominators are. This will have to be the result of the consultations with the Contadora Group" (Colombia, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela), he said.

However, he added, "I must say that mistaken interpretations have been cleared up and somehow we advanced in such a way that, although for this meeting (which the Contadora Group will begin on Tuesday, 8 January in Panama) it will not be possible to assume that we will have a proposal and ideas ready that will result in modifications to the Contadora agreement, we have reached a higher stage of understanding."

Sepulveda explained that originally "there were two matters that worried certain Central American governments. One was the so-called simultaneity," that is, "the idea that the obligations (contained in the peace treaty) should all become effective at the same time."

"One of the matters we have cleared up is precisely the impossibility of simultaneity and they have accepted it," said Sepulveda, one of the founders of the Contadora Group, which came into existence almost 2 years ago on 9 January 1983. "What I have proposed is that there be a balanced chronology in the enforcement of the obligations, not simultaneity, and this has been accepted," said Sepulveda.

The second matter discussed was the effectiveness of the control and verification mechanism proposed by the Contadora Group to supervise compliance with the treaty and to guarantee the pacification of Central America. He pointed out that it was insisted at the meetings that the system proposed by Contadora can be effective and that "what is required is the political desire of the parties to have the system function."

Sepulveda conceded that the system can be improved, "but our preference would be for a system -- the one in the Contadora agreement or another improved version -- to become effective and that its worth be tested to correct possible problems it may cause."

When asked whether his country had been pressured by the United States because of its differing foreign policy in Central America, as the Mexican Senate affirmed recently, the foreign secretary said that "I do not subscribe to this idea because there is no basis for the speculation that Mexico is being pressured due to its political action" in the region. The Mexican Senate, composed solely of legislators from the ruling party, affirmed that Washington is in favor of a military solution in the area, which is contrary to Mexico's position. The foreign secretary said that "even if differences exist, in the last few years there has been greater political communication and understanding" with the United States. As an example, Sepulveda cited the meetings that the United States and Nicaragua have held in Manzanillo, Mexico. If there were no "confidence in Mexico's political capacity and its action in Central America, it would be very difficult for the United States to accept the goodness and merits of Mexico's proposal and of the conviction that it is useful to maintain bilateral negotiations with the Managua government," he concluded.

ISRAELI ENERGY MINISTER DISCUSSES OIL PURCHASES

FL071735 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0010 GMT 7 Jan 85

[Text] Mexico City, 6 Jan (NOTIMEX) -- Israel's Minister of Energy and Infrastructure Moshe Shahal, who arrived here today to meet with economic cabinet officials, has said Israel is in favor of the oil market's stabilization. The Israeli official said his country has taken this position in hopes of avoiding fluctuations which affect both the petroleum consuming and producing countries. Israel is interested in increasing trade with Mexico, especially its purchases of Mexican crude. At present, this Middle East nation is one of Mexico's main oil clients. Mexico sells 7 million tons of crude a year to Israel, said Shahal. Although the official refused to specify the amount of Mexican crude they would import, he said that Israel meets 35 percent of its needs with oil bought from Mexico.

BELIZE

CARICOM'S RAINFORD VISITS, DISCUSSES INTEGRATION

FL051900 Bridgetown CANA in English 2230 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Text] Belmopan, Guyana, Jan 4, CANA -- Caribbean Community (Caricom) Secretary General Roderick Rainford has highlighted problems of air and sea transportation facing the 13-member grouping during a visit to Belize to finalise arrangements for this month's Council of Ministers meeting in Guyana. Rainford told a news conference: We firmly believe in the principle that we should look forward to the day when it will be possible to get from one Caricom member state to another Caricom member state without having to go through a non-Caricom state. The Caricom official had to travel through Miami to reach this capital city, a constraint which he said has militated against Belize's maintaining close contact with its partners in Caricom.

The secretary general ended a three-day visit today which included talks with newly-elected Prime Minister Manuel Esquivel and government ministers on the January 28 to 31 Caricom meeting which Belize will be chairing. He praised the commitment of the new government to the regional integration movement but said: One of the problems we have to deal with in maintaining close association and close contact is the problem of logistics in communication and transportation, he said. This is something that is not easily overcome but it is something that is receiving continuing attention. We hope that future development in the fields of communication and telecommunication will be able to help assist us in this problem as well as future development in the fields of both air and sea transportation.

Rainford said he discussed major issues on the agenda of the regional integration movement with Prime Minister Esquivel. The Caricom Council of Ministers, the most important Caricom body in between heads of government summits, is expected to discuss matters relating to the Common Protective Policy (CPP) for agricultural produce, air and sea transport, and the suspended Caricom Multilateral Clearing Facility (CMCF), and review progress in implementing decisions taken by heads of government last July to stimulate shrinking regional trade, Secretariat sources said.

Meets With Ministers

FL050300 Belize City Domestic Service in English 0100 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Excerpt] Caricom Secretary General Mr Roderick Rainford is currently on a visit to Belize for discussions with senior government officials. Yesterday, Mr Rainford met with the Prime Minister Mr Manuel Esquivel, Foreign Affairs and Economic Development Minister Mr Dean Barrow, Minister of Natural Resources Mr Dean Lindo, and the Minister of Commerce, Industries, Fisheries, and Cooperatives Mr Eduardo Juan. The discussion included some of the major issues affecting the regional integration movement on critical matters that fall within the various ministerial portfolios in the regional integration.

Mr Rainford also discussed with the various ministers of government the upcoming meeting of the Common Market Council of Ministers due to be held at the end of January in Georgetown, Guyana.

In an interview with chief information officer Mr [name indistinct], the Caricom secretary general spoke of the need of [word indistinct] the relations with Belize and the need for the improvement of communications at all levels between Belize and the rest of the Caribbean community.

SUGAR BOARD REPORTS ON NOVEMBER HARVEST, EXPORTS

FL041726 Belize City SUNDAY TIMES in English 23 Dec 84 p 15

[Excerpts] The Belize Sugar Industries exported a total of 95,576 long tons of sugar last season to Europe, the United States, Canada and Ecuador. The biggest buyers were the United Kingdom, 30,200 tons, and the United States, 28,200. The 1984-85 season started earlier this month with a target of 110,000 tons -- Libertad Factory in Corozal District, 45,000 tons, and Tower Hill in Organge Walk, 65,000. The Belize Sugar Board's report for November says that in spite of froghopper damage, flooding of low lying areas and the spread of smut disease, there is agreement that cane production will be close to amount needed to make the targetted tonnage of sugar. The Sugar Board also reports that the estimated cane prices for the 1985 crop are $34.30 per ton for Libertad and $33.44 for Tower Hill. The board explains the drop in prices with the reduction of the U.S. export quota and the deterioration of the exchange rate of sterling to U.S. dollars.

COSTA RICA

AMBASSADOR TO NICARAGUA RECALLED FOR CONSULTATIONS

PA071424 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1325 GMT 7 Jan 85

[Excerpts] San Jose, 7 Jan (ACAN-EFE) -- The Costa Rican Government has recalled its ambassador to Managua, Jesus Manuel Fernandez, for consultations, raising the possibility that Costa Rica will not send a delegation to the inauguration of President-elect Daniel Ortega Saavedra, according to political observers in San Jose. The Costa Rican newspaper LA REPUBLICA reported that Jesus Manuel Fernandez was called for consultations to explain in detail the outcome of the differences that have arisen between the two countries as a result of the incident at the Costa Rican Embassy on 24 December. LA REPUBLICA reported that Fernandez will arrive in the capital today from Managua, where he traveled on 26 December to investigate the incident at the embassy, interrupting his Christmas vacation in Costa Rica.

NICARAGUAN NAVY BOATS VIOLATE TERRITORIAL WATERS

PA072029 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 7 Jan 85

[Text] Public Security Minister Benjamin Piza and Colonel Oscar Vidal, director of the Civil Guard, are drafting a report that they will send to the Costa Rican Foreign Ministry in the next few hours. This report discusses a new violation by the Sandinist Armed Forces of the national territory. As we have reported, three Nicaraguan Navy patrol boats entered our country's waters in the Laguna de Aguadulce sector, north of Barra del Colorado, on Sunday morning. The boats entered 2 km into Costa Rican territorial waters and disappeared 1 hour later. The public security minister referred to this new violation and deplored the fact that the troops stationed in the area do not have the necessary emergency equipment to force any boats violating our waters to flee.

The presence of these boats has been interpreted as a Sandinist effort to harass Indian guerrilla groups with whom they have been engaged in heavy fighting in Nicaragua.

Three wounded Indians arrived in our country yesterday. They were Angel Pacheco, 19, who was in the most serious condition; Curvo Salazar, 22; and Hilario Mendoza, 28.

In addition, 34 more refugees entered the country from Nicaragua. An escalation of the fighting in southern Nicaragua has become evident, thus placing our national authorities on alert in view of the possible arrival of refugees and wounded, as well as possible air, sea, and ground violations of our territory, like those that have occurred repeatedly in the past.

The public security minister said that as soon as the report on the new violation is completed, he will send it to Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez so that he can decide what diplomatic step will be taken.

RADIO IMPACTO PROTESTS CORRESPONDENT'S ARREST

PA070019 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1927 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Text] San Jose, 6 Jan (ACAN-EFE) -- The Costa Rican radio station Radio Impacto, whose correspondent in Managua is under arrest, has accused the Nicaraguan Government of trying to silence the news media and persecuting newsmen. In a communique released here, Radio Impacto said that it has always acted according to Costa Rican laws "based on the freedom to educate, entertain, and report on behalf of human rights, private enterprise, and democratic principles."

Radio Impacto also protested the arrest of its correspondent, Salomon Calvo Arrieta, a Nicaraguan, on 29 December in Managua. Interior Minister Tomas Borge, after acknowledging that Calvo Arrieta had been arrested, said on 3 January: "The revolutionary government will not allow correspondents from radio stations and other news media who are counterrevolutionaries in Nicaragua."

"Calvo Arrieta has disseminated reports that distort reality, are a threat to the country's security, and damage relations with friendly countries," he said, adding that Radio Impacto belongs to the CIA.

Calvo Arrieta is the second Radio Impacto correspondent to be arrested in Managua in the past 9 months. The first was Luis Manuel Mora Sanchez, who was arrested on 29 April 1984 by the security police and sentenced to 9 years in prison by the anti-Somozist tribunals. However, he was pardoned 5 months later.

EL SALVADOR

DUARTE SAYS ARENA BEHIND 'ASSASSINATION' OF YANEZ

PA080003 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0919 GMT 7 Jan 85

[Text] San Salvador, 7 Jan (REUTER) -- Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte said last night that the top official in charge of investigating corruption cases had been assassinated through a conspiracy orchestrated by members of the ultraright-wing Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA).

Duarte made the statement upon leaving a funeral parlor in this capital where the body of Pedro Rene Yanez lay in state. Yanez headed the presidential ethics commission, which was created to investigate corruption cases, and he became the first member of Duarte's Christian Democratic administration to be the victim of an apparent political assassination.

"This was a very violent act. They (the murderers) were members of ARENA. It was a conspiracy. The cause was obviously of a political nature," Duarte told reporters, visibly shaken by the death of his colleague.

Several Christian Democratic leaders last night identified Yanez' murderer as Reinaldo Osorto, ARENA candidate for mayor in the city of Concepcion de Oriente for the elections scheduled in March. The politicians' version contradicted an official report broadcast a little earlier, which stated that the assassin had been Francisco Alfaro, a member of ARENA, and that the incident took place in San Rafael Oriente. Christian Democratic spokesmen said last night that the assassination took place during a meeting held the previous night in Concepcion de Oriente, located 160 km east of the capital in La Union Department. They also denied earlier reports that three passers-by had been killed in the shootout, adding that Osorto killed Yanez and one passer-by and seriously wounded another, before being shot to death by the murdered official's bodyguards.

Duarte said that Yanez had investigated "so many" cases of corruption during the past few months that it would be difficult to speculate on who had murdered him. Some Christian Democratic politicians said that Yanez was a likely candidate for mayor of San Salvador in the elections scheduled to be held in March, but others denied this.

According to Christian Democratic Party spokesmen, Yanez was rapidly transferred to an automobile after the shootout, and Duarte said that eight persons were arrested after the vehicle had been stopped. "They thought that (Yanez) was alive and they were going to attack him again," the president said.

Political observers pointed out that the incident could be a prelude to new violent incidents during the campaign for the March elections. ARENA spokesmen have made no comments on the incident.

D'AUBUISSON ON COALITION OF RIGHT-WING PARTIES

PA070420 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 0025 GMT 7 Jan 85

[By Raul Beltran Bonilla]

[Text] Major Roberto D'Aubuisson this morning presided over a general assembly held at the Camino Real Hotel, during which he gave the names of candidates, particularly those of Nationalist Republican Alliance, ARENA, for deputies in all departments. Meanwhile, the three rightist parties, the Salvadoran Authentic Institutionalist Party, PAISA; the Nationalist Republican Alliance, ARENA; and the National Conciliation Party, PCN, will continue deliberations this week to see if they can form a coalition to participate in the elections for mayors to be held throughout the country. Maj D'Aubuisson made the following statement at the Camino Real Hotel this morning:

[Begin recording] [Passage indistinct] worrying local [word indistinct] and their friends abroad, because they know that with ARENA and PCN votes, we will defeat them by a landslide in every municipality in the Republic. [applause]

[Words indistinct] we will work on the vital issues, united in a coalition. We are not just going to tell the people [words indistinct] we have to guarantee them something more. This is what I have said lately. The coalition's main nationalist objective is to invite Duarte, from a position of democratic, political and constitutional force, to a dialogue because we represent the country's real active forces. [applause]

We are going to keep the door open and we are going to offer him our support and experience so that we can hold a real national dialogue on behalf of our country. The serious problems we have are not going to be solved just by holding a dialogue with the rebels.

It is time for talks with the democratic and active forces we represent. We want to hear him tell us about his plans to benefit the country so that we can support them. But we also want him to listen to our plans through which we plan to solve the country's economic chaos. The coalition's objective is above partisan interests. Our country is our main objective. [words indistinct] We are going to tell the Salvadoran people in this electoral campaign that if they support and vote for our great party, they are supporting the coalition, whose plan is to save the country from the crisis it is facing. [end recording]

Maj D'Aubuisson refrained from commenting on the rumors circulating in La Union Department about Francisco Alfaro, who at 0100 on 6 January killed Pedro Rene Yanez, member of the presidential ethical commission, being a member of ARENA. A spokesman for ARENA said that the party records will be reviewed to see if Francisco Alfaro, who killed three other persons besides Yanez before Yanez' bodyguards were able to shoot him down, was indeed a member of ARENA.

FMLN'S GUERRA ON TRUCE, DIALOGUE, FUTURE ACTIONS

PA040400 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 Jan 85

[By Raul Beltran]

[Text] Good morning, listeners. The truce and cease-fire declared unilaterally by the FMLN ended at 2400 yesterday. This was reported in a press conference by Commander Salvador Guerra, FMLN commander and member of the People's Liberation Forces, FPL. Approximately 30 reporters were invited to attend the press conference held in Tenancingo. No difficulties were encountered on the road, much less in entering or leaving Tenancingo. Commander Salvador Guerra arrived in Tenancingo escorted by his bodyguards and yesterday afternoon met with local and foreign reporters who had been invited to attend the noon press conference. Commander Salvador Guerra began the press conference by saying:

[Begin recording] [Guerra] We have invited you here to announce that at 2400 the unilateral truce the FMLN-FDR declared comes to an end. We wish to tell you that we have tried to respect this truce on all our war fronts. However, there were some problems. The truce was respected in some places, but it was not respect in others, especially in Chalatenango. Army troops launched an operation deep into our territory and skirmishes occurred. There were many dead and wounded soldiers and we suffered two casualties. We wanted to tell you this and at the same time denounce the fact that the Salvadoran Army did not have a clear stance in face of the unilateral truce we declared.

In the beginning Mr Rey Prendes [Ministry of the Presidency Julio Adolfo Rey Prendes] gave us a positive unofficial answer, an extraofficial answer. However, we have not seen the Army take a clear stance. Therefore, through this press conference, the FMLN-FDR demands of the high command a clear response in face of the process of dialogue and negotiation. We demand that we all put forth our best efforts to achieve real peace for our people this year. This is basically why we are here today and we will answer any questions you may have.

[Reporter] Commander Guerra, you mentioned a unilateral truce, but the government said it would respect this truce and allow free movement. Would you say that there is a division; President Duarte's government saying one thing and the Army high command saying something else?

[Guerra] That is clear, very clear. We were present when agreements were reached by the commission that met in Ayagualo. It was agreed that free movement would be allowed, but they did not respect this. We saw all the roadblocks they set up in Chalatenango, along the main northern road from Colima Bridge to La Palma. We had proposed naming La Palma the cradle of peace and that the two armies respect the town, at least during the holidays, but this was not done. What Mr Ochoa [Colonel Sigifredo Ochoa Perez, chief of the 4th Infantry Brigade] did was to go to the town to swear in troops and he left troops behind on the road.

After this incident we adopted our decision, mainly as a demonstration, as a gesture, of the FMLN-FDR's political willingness to continue the process of dialogue that will lead us to a political solution in our quest for peace.

We see that there are differences. Mr Duarte has also faced some problems with the famous law and the veto. We have seen how the right pressured Mr Duarte in such a way that he had to given in. This shows us the falseness of the famous slogan that says: Duarte's government is one that governs. It is only demagoguery. At this moment, Mr Duarte is being pressured by the most recalcitrant and obscure forces of the right and he is also being pressured by the positions adopted by the high command. We must add that one faction of the Army fulfilled the truce, but another did not. We are very pleased with the faction that did not launch offensive actions during this truce period. But we know that one side opposes this, and we can see that Mr Duarte has many problems. We are willing to hold the next round of talks now, in January. We will send him our proposed list of places where the next meeting could be held.

[Reporter] Based on what you have just said, does this mean that there is very little hope of reaching (?an agreement) at the next round of talks?

[Guerra] There are some strong forces, especially within the Army and among the most powerful families of the country, who are not interested in a political solution or negotiation.

[Question indistinct]

[Guerra] Probably yes, probably no. It could be yes as a means to win votes, and it could be no as long as the right continues to pressure the government to stop the negotiations. [end recording]

Prior to Commander Guerra's arrival in Tenancingo, the Army troops and the leftist rebels both respected the cease-fire and the truce. For approximately an hour prior to Commander Guerra's arrival, a push-and-pull [preceding words in English] reconnaissance plane, equipped with missiles, circled the Tenancingo area where the reporters were waiting for the press conference to begin. The plane flew low over the town, while the rebels walked the streets of the abandoned town now known as the ghost town of Tenancingo. Despite the fact that the two sides were within shooting distance, they did not fire on each other. The reporters viewed this as a gesture of goodwill between the two parties in conflict in our country.

Commander Salvador Guerra's statement regarding the third round of talks between the guerrillas and the government coincided with the statement made by Msgr Arturo Rivera y Damas on 1 January 1985. The FMLN leader said that 27 December had been the day agreed upon between the FMLN-FDR and the government to hold the third meeting. Msgr Rivera y Damas added that due to the difficulties faced during the last days of December the meeting was postponed, but it would be held in January. In answering questions from reporters, especially with regard to the third meeting between the government and the Salvadoran left's political and armed branches, the leader said:

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Commander, will the FMLN-FDR attend the third meeting? Also, what is your opinion on the March elections for mayors and deputies? Will you oppose with the elections, as you have always done, or will you approach it differently?

[Guerra] We will attend the next meeting and take our proposals. We have the political will to continue the dialogue. Regarding our stance on the elections, we will wait until the next meeting and, depending on the agreements we reach, we will take a position regarding the upcoming elections.

[Reporter] Commander, there is some confusion surrounding the death of Colonel Monterrosa. Can you tell us whether the FMLN was responsible for downing the helicopter or could it have been someone who infiltrated the Army?

[Guerra] We do not believe it was an attack because from the moment Col Monterrosa arrived in (?Berlin) we began planning an operation against him. The opportunity came when he was in the helicopter in Joateca. We received information on the same day that the operation was carried out in the eastern sector of the country.

[Reporter] Then it was the FMLN?

[Guerra] Yes, the FMLN.

[Reporter] Commander, regarding the group or sector of the Army that did not respect the truce, can you identify this group or would you say that it is the one that opposes a political solution?

[Guerra] They oppose everything because Col Ochoa, who we thought favored a political solution, has been the one leading the troops in Chalatenango and directing the entire offensive operation during the time the truce was in effect. Even the Atlacatl Battalion arrived on the 29th and 30th to end the cleanup operation that had to be suspended and transferred to Metapan following our operation at the cement plant.

[Reporter] Commander, after listening to Commander Facundo Guardado in Ayagualo, President Duarte said that Commander Guardado's speech had been virulent and warmongering and that if this attitude continued he would not lend himself to more tactical dialogues. How do you feel about this statement?

[Guerra] When Duarte made this declaration, we realized it had been made hastily because he did not even stop to consider the proposal. We have to be realistic in this war that has lasted for a number of years. The conditions that caused the war still prevail, as Companero Guardado said in Ayagualo. So long as the causes for the war remain, the war will continue. Duarte, however, did not stop to think. It seems to us that he had mounted a show with an eye toward the elections. But it didn't work. That's why he acted in haste. However, we still harbor hope, and we issue a call to Duarte's government to study the proposals so that we may reach an agreement in January and then continue the negotiation process.

[Reporter] What date has been set for this meeting, Commander?

[Guerra] We first proposed 27 December. We will, however, make the necessary contacts with the church in an effort to hold this meeting by mid-January or at the end of this month.

[Reporter] What are the FMLN's plans for 1985?

[Guerra] We have two basic plans: One is to continue our efforts for a political solution. The other is to be militarily prepared should the United States step up its intervention in our country.

[Reporter] Last year there was much fear about a possible U.S. intervention. Apparently this fear has been considerably reduced. Do you still consider this intervention likely?

[Guerra] As you have said, this fear has diminished somewhat. We are, however, at war, and we cannot lower our guard. We will prepare for this eventuality in all earnestness. Regarding the continuation of our efforts to achieve a political solution, we believe that this would basically reduce any foreign pressure on our country. [end recording]

When Commander Guerra analyzed activities in 1984, specifically referring to the position adopted by the Armed Forces' representatives at the La Palma and Ayagualo meetings, he said that two currents have been observed within the Armed Forces. Referring to this topic, the leftist leader said:

[Begin recording] [Guerra] We believe middle-level officers, namely captains and majors who lead elite Cazadores battalions, are fully aware of what happens on the battlefields. These officers get no rest; they get no leave. In addition, these officers are well aware of how costly it is for the Armed Forces to continue and protract the war. These officers have stressed their support for and requested a dialogue and political solution.

[Reporter] Commander, please. You have said that there is a strategic tendency in the Army to create free-fire areas and that this strategy is being applied. By free-fire areas, I mean a scorched-earth strategy.

[Guerra] At the moment it cannot be said that a scorched-earth strategy is being applied. Nevertheless, many areas have been depopulated, such as the one we are in, Tenancingo. We proposed to the church that the population return here. The Army, however, has not give a clear answer to this proposal, because they are interested in having the area free of people so they can continue bombing operations. You must have seen aircraft constantly reconnoitering the area. Bombings occur often and the civilian population suffers. We have seen, however, that people who had fled their homes in the country's northern area have begun to return. We advocate the people's returning to their places of origin. During negotiations, we and the government can agree on areas where we would not circulate so that the people can settle once again.

[Reporter] Commander, General Blandon of the Army staff said the other day that the Army is developing a new plan to crush the guerrillas next year. He has said this plan includes psychological warfare and military operations. What is your opinion of this?

[Guerra] We are preparing for this. We have announced that the unilateral truce ends today. We are ready for any contingency and any offensive by the Salvadoran Army. [end recording]

The FMLN rebels are willing and able to continue their actions throughout our national territory, according to Commander Guerra. In addition, the rebels are anxious to continue with the dialogue and detente to achieve peace with the government led by Jose Napoleon Duarte. When talking about these activities during the press conference held yesterday afternoon in Tenancingo, the FMLN leader said:

[Begin recording] [Guerra -- broadcast in progress] ...Our stance at the dialogue.

[Reporter] Commander, Gen Blandon has been one of the officers who has most favored a political solution.

What is your opinion of Blandon's speech at La Palma when soldiers were sworn in a week ago?

[Guerra] We think that Gen Blandon must think it over and make all possible efforts. That is why we convoked this press conference. An appeal is being made to the high command to take a definitive stance regarding a dialogue and political solution. We regret seeing that the high command does not view the dialogue initiated at La Palma the same way we do. General Casanova attended the La Palma meeting and said that efforts would be made for a continued dialogue. The stance taken at Ayagualo, however, was different, while the stances assumed regarding another meeting and the truce were also different.

[Reporter] Commander Guerra, considering these contradictions that you have mentioned, what will happen now that the Army high command advocates a military solution? How many more meetings with the government will have to be held before the FMLN defines its stance?

[Guerra] We have to be ready for the existing counterinsurgency plan. As I have told you before, we are getting ready for it and for an acceleration of U.S. intervention in the Salvadoran Armed Forces. As we see it, the Armed Forces have to assume a clear stance regarding a political solution.

[Reporter] Commander, does your participation in the attack on the cement plant mean that you will broaden your western front?

[Guerra] Yes. The western front was broadened during the final months of 1984 and we will continue to broaden it.

[Reporter] Commander Guerra, Radio Venceremos sometimes mentions the participation of specialized U.S. troops; this means that these troops are operating in the country covertly. Do you have evidence or proof that there are U.S. troops participating directly in the Salvadoran conflict?

[Guerra] The troops are basically involved in artillery activities and long-range reconnaissance patrols. We have already reported this, but we will continue to gather evidence about these patrols. The U.S. troops have organized these patrols in every garrison. Their orders are to infiltrate deep into our territory and locate our camps. However, we are working and gathering more information about this.

[Reporter] According to the FMLN's analyses, what will be the first target of a U.S. intervention: El Salvador or Nicaragua?

[Guerra] We believe that the danger prevails at the regional level, but each country has its own characteristics. However, we hope that the Manzanillo talks will continue with the Nicaraguans so that a conflict will not be unleashed against Nicaragua. Regarding our side, we are exerting ourselves to the utmost in the dialogue process. We do not know where the conflict might explode first.

[Reporter] Commander...

[Guerra -- interrupting] However, the U.S. troops have continued to prepare Honduran bases as a contingency or for intervention.

[Reporter] Commander, what is your position regarding the Contadora Group talks?

[Guerra] We advocate the 21 points presented by the Contadora Group and the modifications presented at midyear. Therefore, we will not be affected by the weapons and advisers aspects, because the FMLN has already developed its own dynamics.

Meanwhile, at 1000 on Saturday the Cacahuatique Battalion troops sustained two casualties during a clash with BRAZ guerrilla units in the vicinity of (Piedra Luna) canton in Cacahuatique Hill, Morazan Department. Also on Cacahuatique Hill, in southern Morazan Department, another clash took place at 1600 on Saturday. Cacahuatique Battalion troops clashed with BRAZ guerrilla units in El Mirador. The enemy sustained three casualties: a dead corporal and two seriously wounded soldiers. Our forces sustained no casualties.

Saturday's clashes resulted in FMLN victories in the country's eastern area. During 24 hours of fighting, the Army sustained 24 casualties, both dead and wounded. In addition, we seized five G-3 rifles and an M-79 grenade launcher from the enemy. We captured two Conchaqua Battalion soldiers. We opened 1985 with victories. We send revolutionary greetings to BRAZ guerrilla units that [words indistinct].

Attention, close attention, Radio Venceremos has received a last-minute report. The dictatorship's troops sustained four additional casualties in clashes in the eastern area. Attention, the report states that at 1300 on Saturday BRAZ guerrilla units clashed with dictatorship troops near El Llano, El Angel. As a result of this clash, the puppet Army sustained four casualties: one soldier killed and three others wounded.

With these new casualties, reported by the Francisco Sanchez Northeastern Front, the dictatorship's troops sustained a total of 28 casualties in 1 day of fighting in the country's eastern area. The dictatorship's casualties totaled 28 in clashes in the eastern area on Saturday.

HONDURAS

FAGOTH LEAVES FOR MIAMI; FINAL DESTINATION UNKNOWN

PA072255 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2226 GMT 7 Jan 85

[Excerpt] Tegucigalpa, 7 Jan (ACAN-EFE) -- The Honduran Government this afternoon deported Nicaraguan Indian rebel leader Steadman Fagoth Muller to the United States, after arresting him last Friday. Fagoth Muller was placed on an airplane that left for Miami, United States, at 2:30 local time (2030 GMT) today. Honduran immigration authorities who accompanied Fagoth Muller refused to allow journalists to interview him, and also refused to reveal the anti-Sandinist leader's final destination.

DELEGATION WILL NOT BE SENT TO ORTEGA INAUGURAL

PA080222 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 7 Jan 85 p 2

[Text] Tegucigalpa -- The Honduran Government has no intention whatsoever of sending a delegation to the inauguration of Nicaraguan President-elect Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra, Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica has announced.

The head of Honduran foreign policy said that it is almost certain that only Colonel Isidro Tapia Martinez, Honduran ambassador to Nicaragua, will attend the ceremony. He said: "The ambassador will receive instructions at a later date."

Although neighboring countries such as El Salvador and Costa Rica have had problems with the Nicaraguan revolution, they have already confirmed the attendance of large delegations at the event. "The government has made this decision in a totally sovereign attitude," the foreign secretary said, without giving further explanations for the measure.

We believe there will be no problem with this. We have even demanded the withdrawal of the U.S. advisers and a stop to the Armed Forces' rash arms buildup. We fully support the Contadora Document's points.

[Reporter] Commander Guerra, you say that you are preparing to defend yourselves against antiguerrilla tactics. Can we surmise that the FMLN activities have decreased or, on the contrary, will the attacks be stepped up after the truce?

[Guerra] We have been working with our troops precisely on this during the truce. In addition to the traditional festivities, we made some preparations.

[Reporter] Commander, you mentioned that you were preparing for the Armed Forces' offensive actions. Quoting my colleague, does this mean that the FMLN will wait for an Armed Forces' offensive or can we expect some kind of offensive from the FMLN?

[Guerra] The FMLN will develop its own strategic offensive. We were waiting for these first months to carry out the strategic offensive we have planned. We will verify that every front is ready and then decide when we will start.

[Reporter] Is it true that the truce was violated by the Armed Forces' units because they were acting on the high command's orders, or were they acting on their own?

[Guerra] These are the high command's guidelines because Colonel Benjamin Ramos said this quite clearly in Chalatenango. He said that the offensive actions were carried out in Chalatenango on the high command's orders.

[Reporter] Your first meeting was held in guerrilla-controlled territory and the second in government-controlled territory. Where will you hold the third meeting? Have you presented any proposals about this?

[Guerra] It would be better if we did it on an alternating basis. [laughs]
[end recording]

VENCEREMOS ON FIGHTING, CASUALTIES IN EASTERN REGION

PA071550 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 7 Jan 85

[Text] Puppet Army troops sustained 24 casualties, both dead and wounded, in clashes Saturday in eastern El Salvador. FMLN guerrilla units from the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade [BRAZ] clashed with puppet Army troops at 0900 on Saturday. Two clashes took place on the highway between Bolivar and the Military Route. Attention, close attention to Radio Venceremos. As a result of those clashes, eight Army soldiers were killed and four others were wounded. Our forces seized five G-3 rifles and an M-79 grenade launcher and shells. Reports stated that two Conchagua Battalion soldiers were taken prisoner.

Meanwhile, another BRAZ guerrilla unit ambushed a convoy carrying Conchagua Battalion troops from La Union and inflicted seven casualties on them, both dead and wounded. The ambush took place on the highway between La Union and Santa Rosa de Lima near the El Picaho turnoff.

On Saturday at 0700 our guerrilla unit destroyed a passing military vehicle carrying Conchagua Battalion troops when it triggered a shaped charge. After the explosion [words indistinct] inflicted seven casualties, both dead and wounded, on regime's troops.

GOVERNMENT CRITICIZED OVER MISSING PERSONS

Armed Forces' Report Condemned

PA041553 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 3 Jan 85 p 11

[Advertisement by the Committee of Relatives of Missing Detainees in Honduras]

[Text] The Committee of Relatives of Missing Detainees in Honduras (Cofadeh) presents to the national and international public our initial reply to an Armed Forces' report dated 29 December concerning the activities of the special commission investigating multiple reports on human rights violations, especially the disappearance in 6 months of 112 persons for political reasons.

1. The report feels that the Armed Forces' ultrarightist inclination prevailed over honest government actions that after 31 March 1984 were aimed at restoring the honor of the Armed Forces and showing the Honduran people that there were changes in human rights. This is reflected in the refusal to reveal statements concerning death squads and clandestine jails made by Mayors Alexander Hernandez, Rafael Canales Nunez, Juan Blas Salazar, and Arnoldo Cabrera. In addition, it is important to note that Marcos Hernandez, Carlos Alfredo Martinez, and Tranquilino Montes have resumed work as professional torturers. Daniel Bali Castillo has retired which means that all atrocities which the general committed or helped commit against Hondurans, Salvadorans, and other nationals will remain unpunished.

2. Given that the resistance within the Armed Forces has not been overcome, it is natural that the special commission's report is incongruent, vague, and contradictory. Only in this way can we understand why the investigators, having all documents and the archives of the repressive groups in their hands, admitted to the existence of missing persons while they also admitted to their inability to determine the whereabouts of the victims or to identify the culprits.

3. The names of eight persons cited by the report to discredit a Cofadeh list of missing people are mostly Salvadorans whose whereabouts continue to be a mystery to their relatives. Moreover, in the specific case of Jorge Enrique Jimenez Argueta, the report turned out to be deliberately incomplete, because 10 other persons were seized on 5 August 1981 with him. The identity and whereabouts of those people were omitted. Now, if the special commission determined the circumstances of Jimenez Aagueta's capture and deportation, why did it withhold details on his kidnapping which had been systematically denied for the past 3 years? In addition, we could also ask: Where are the other victims of 4 years of continuous institutionalized violence?

4. In our opinion, it is outrageous that the Armed Forces acknowledged that the entire internal law, the sovereignty, and the respect for the Salvadoran nationality were tossed aside when foreign armed groups have used the national territory as a base for kidnapping, torturing, and murdering with impunity. "Those armed rightist subversive groups" are nothing more than groups serving Salvadoran Army intelligence, "Nicaraguan contras," and the CIA. They are not alone in this. They have had the open and militant complicity of Honduran state security corps based on the premise that physical borders are subordinated to ideological borders in the antisubversive struggle. A case in point: Was not Mayor Alexander Hernandez the supplier of Honduran passports for foreign murderers?

5. Gentlemen of the Armed Forces, in your report you point out that you have faced resistance from some sectors throughout your investigation. However, from what person or persons did this resistance come? Not from Cofadeh, human rights defenders, or relatives of the victims. In any case, if the Liberal government, the U.S. Embassy, and ultrarightist officers offered "resistance," it was not to prevent the conclusion of the investigation, "because the whole truth has been common knowledge for a few months now." They did so to keep the results of the investigation secret. What happened to Mayor Alexander Hernandez' confessions made in the headquarters of the special battalion which is on the way to La Venta?

6. Instead of clarifying incidents, the special commission tried to evade military responsibilities in the odious chain of human rights violations and it also exempts civilian leaders from voluntary or involuntary participation in those sad incidents. In sum, its communique is quite similar to the final declaration that the genocidal Argentine military made public days before turning power over to President Raul Alfonsin in their desperate and futile attempt to avert the condemnation they deserve for their inhuman behavior.

7. In view of this, nothing encouraging can be expected at the end of the 90-day extension that the special commission gave itself to give its final report of its investigations. No missing person will return home and no criminal will be punished through the initiative of the Armed Forces, because there has been no significant improvement in human rights between the officers who share power today and the group led by Gustavo Alvarez Martinez.

Only the Honduran people, their most representative organizations, and international solidarity will put an end to the nightmare we have lived in over the past 4 years which is threatening to claim even more victims. This spiral will definitely lead us to a situation of generalized violence.

In view of the ruling government's lack of determination and ability, Cofadeh announces the organization in the short term of a trial of conscience against those involved in tortures, murders, and disappearances in which the testimonies of affected people and even of the survivors of clandestine prisons will be revealed. This will be the reply of all Honduran democrats to this official report that left behind the bitter taste of frustration and despair.

Rights Group Head Comments

PA061434 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 4 Jan 85 p 4

[Text] Tegucigalpa -- At least 14 persons have disappeared since General Gustavo Alvarez Martinez was ousted on 31 March 1984 as commander in chief of the Armed Forces, Dr Ramon Custodio Lopez, president of the Honduran Human Rights Commission, CODEH, reported yesterday.

Miguel Pabon, CODEH president in San Pedro Sula, said that Jose Eduardo Lopez has been missing since 24 December 1984, and that although he was seen in one of the cells at the Department of National Investigation, DIN, in San Pedro Sula, the authorities have refused to release him.

Custodio said that nothing has changed since Gen Alvarez Martinez was ousted and that the repressive groups that kidnapped over 100 citizens still exist. "Juan Blas Salazar and Alexander Hernandez are still top figures in the repressive organization," Custodio said. In the report that the UN Human Rights Commission will issue in February, we do not have the slightest doubt that Honduras will be listed as one of the countries where human rights are violated, Custodio added.

Custodio said that CODEH is not interested in submitting any evidence to the Armed Forces regarding persons who have disappeared because it does not trust the Armed Forces to do anything about it and the guilty will go unpunished. Therefore, he discarded the possibility of a meeting between CODEH and the Armed Forces high command. Custodio also accused President Roberto Suazo Cordova of violating the Constitution when he refused to receive a group of relatives of persons who have disappeared. Custodio noted the fact that "none of the military members accused of human rights violations have been asked to appear in court," despite the charges filed against them. On the other hand, however, the military has indicted 20 persons, mostly peasants and workers, accused of being members of a guerrilla movement. Meanwhile, Custodio said, we are doing everything within our power to see if we can obtain their freedom.

NICARAGUA

NEW CABINET, GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS ANNOUNCED

PA081320 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1208 GMT 8 Jan 85

[Press communique issued by President-elect Daniel Ortega Saavedra in Managua on 7 January]

[Text] The president-elect of the Republic of Nicaragua takes the liberty of informing the Nicaraguan people and the international public about the following measures, which will take effect with the beginning of the next government term on 10 January 1985.

1. It has been decided to create the National Planning Council [Consejo Nacional de Planificacion], which will be the supreme consultation organ of the Presidency of the Republic for drafting national economic strategic guidelines, ordinary and contingent economic development programs and plans, and any other measures affecting the country's economic and social life. The National Planning Council will be chaired by the president of the Republic and will also include:

A. The vice president of the Republic, who will be in charge of coordinating the infrastructure of the council.
B. The minister of foreign cooperation, who will be in charge of coordinating foreign cooperation and foreign trade.
C. The minister of agricultural development and agrarian reform, who will be in charge of of coordinating agricultural production, supply, and labor.
D. The minister of industry, who will be in charge of coordinating industrial production, fishing, and mining.
E. The president of the Central Bank.
F. The planning and budget secretary, who will act as technical secretary for the council.

2. At the same time, the Planning and Budget Secretariat [Secretaria de Planificacion y Presupuesto] will operate as an adjunct to the Presidency of the Republic, replacing the former Planning Ministry, and will also include the General Budget Directorate [Direccion General de Presupuesto] of the Finance Ministry. The Nicaraguan Institute of Statistics and Census and the Nicaraguan Institute of Insurance will be part of this secretariat.

3. The Ministry of Foreign Cooperation [Ministerio de la Cooperacion Externa] is hereby created. It will centralize relations of cooperation with all countries in the world, and therefore will include the International Reconstruction Fund, FIR.

4. The Ministry of the Presidency [Ministerio de la Presidencia] is hereby created, to which the Secretariat for Coordination of Regional Affairs [Secretaria de Coordinacion de Asuntos Regionales] and the Administrative Secretariat of the Presidency [Secretaria Administrativa de la Presidencia] will be part of.

5. The cabinet of the government will be composed as follows:

1. Father Miguel D'Escoto Brockman, foreign minister
2. Commander of the Revolution Humberto Ortega Saavedra, defense minister
3. Commander of the Revolution Tomas Borge Martinez, interior minister
4. Commander of the Revolution Luis Carrion Cruz, first deputy interior minister
5. Commander of the Revolution Henry Ruiz Hernandez, foreign cooperation minister
6. Commander of the Revolution Jaime Wheelock Roman, agricultural development and agrarian reform minister
7. Companero Emilio Baltodano Cantarero, industry minister
8. Companero Rene Nunez Tellez, presidency minister
9. Dr Alejandro Martinez Cuenca, foreign trade minister
10. Guerrilla Commander Ramon Cabrales, domestic trade minister
11. Guerrilla Commander William Ramirez, transportation minister
12. William Hupper Arguello, finance minister
13. Guerrilla Commander Mauricio Valenzuela, construction minister
14. Lea Guido, health minister
15. Father Fernando Cardenal, education minister
16. Ernesto Castillo Martinez, justice minister
17. Father Ernesto Cardenal, culture minister
18. Miguel Ernesto Vigil Icaza, housing minister
19. Companero Benedicto Meneses Fonseca, labor minister

6. The following companeros have been assigned rank of minister:

Joaquin Cuadra Chamorro, president of the Nicaraguan Central Bank
Luis Enrique Figueroa, planning and budget secretary of the Presidency
Leonel Arguello Ramirez, president of the Nicaraguan Institute of Insurance, Iniser
Emilio Rappaccioli, director of the Nicaraguan Institute of Energy, INE
Ottoniel Arguello, director of the Nicaraguan Water and Sewage Institute, INAA
Captain Jose Maria Alvarado, director of Nicaraguan Telecommunications and Postal Services, Telcor
Alfredo Alaniz, director of the Nicaraguan Institute of Fisheries, Inpesca
Ramiro Bermudez Mallol, director of the Nicaraguan Institute of Mines and Hydrocarbons, Immineh
Reinaldo Antonio Tefel, director of the Nicaraguan Institute of Social Security
Companero Herty Lewites Rodriguez, director of the Nicaraguan Institute of Tourism, Inturismo
Joaquin Solis Piura, president of the National Council for Higher Education, CNES
Companero Emilio Baltodano Pallais, comptroller general of the Republic
Samuel Santos Lopez, mayor of Managua

7. The following delegates of the Presidency of the Republic to the country's various regions have been assigned the rank of minister:

Companero Carlos Manuel Morales, minister-delegate to Region 1
Guerrilla Commander Alonso Porras, minister-delegate to Region 2
Companero Javier Moncada, minister-delegate to Region 4
Edwin Zablah, minister-delegate to Region 5
(Diogenes Martinez), minister-delegate to Region 6
Mirna Cunningham, minister-delegate to Special Zone 1
Companero (Thomas Gordon), minister-delegate to Special Zone 2
Captain Alejandro Guevara, minister-delegate to Special Zone 3

8. The following companeros will have the rank of minister:

Guerrilla Commander Monica Baltodano, secretary for regional affairs of the Presidency
Rodrigo Reyes, administrative secretary of the Presidency
Dionisio Marenco, adviser to the president of the Republic
Manuel Espinoza Henriquez, information and press director of the Presidency

9. Carlos Zarruck, who was transporation minister, will now undertake responsibilities in the central rearguard of the People's Army.

2. [number as heard] Pedro Antonio Blandon, former director of the FIR, the functions of which have been absorbed by the new Foreign Cooperation Ministry, will continue to render his services within the structures of the top management of this new institution.

3. Following the attachment, on instructions of the new government, of the INEC to the Planning Secretariat of the Presidency of the Republic, Companero Jaime Ocon will continue acting as director of INEC.

4. Following the attachment, on instructions from the new government, of the Institute of Natural Resources, IRENA, to the Agricultural Development and Agrarian Reform Ministry, Companero (Julio Castillo) will continue acting as director of IRENA.

Issued in Managua on 7 January 1985

For peace, all against aggression.

[Signed] Daniel Ortega Saavedra

NOTE, INFORMATION ON 'MERCENARIES' SENT TO HONDURAS

PA080434 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 8 Jan 85

[Note sent by Acting Foreign Minister Nora Astorga to Hunduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica, issued in Managua on 7 January]

[Text] Mr Secretary, I address Your Excellency to refer to the illegal activities being carried out against Nicaragua from Honduran territory by the mercenary groups called Miskito's, Sumus, and Ramas, and the Nicaraguan Democratic Force, FDN. This was brought to your attention some days ago during a press conference and at that time Your Excellency said that these mercenary forces should be expelled from Hunduran territory. At the press conderence, Your Excellency also said that the mercenary leader Steadman Fagoth would be expelled from Hunduras. This encouraged the Nicaraguan Government to request his extradition, which was formalized in a note sent to Your Excellency yesterday.

Seeking to cooperate with the intentions stated by Your Excellency, I hereby enclose a list of bases and camps these mercenary organizations have in Honduran territory, with the intention that they be located, disarmed, and moved far from the border area. This would be the first step in expelling them from Honduras.

The Nicaraguan Government wishes to state its confidence that Your Excellency's wishes, as expressed in the statement regarding the mercenary group's operating illegally in Honduran territory, may be carried out in the shortest time possible. This will not only benefit relations between Honduras and Nicaragua, but it will also benefit the Contadora Group's peace efforts.

Nicaragua hopes that the Honduran Government has stated in a responsible and mature way, through Your Excellency, its decision to put an end to these mercenary groups' presence in Honduran territory. This kind of attitude, in accordance with the norms of international law, makes it possible to effectively restore the trust and cooperation between our two countries and all the Central American brother countries.

I reiterate to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration.

[Signed] Nora Astorga, acting foreign minister

Talavera Comments

PA072003 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1837 GMT 7 Jan 85

[Text] This morning the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry sent a diplomatic note to the Honduran Government stating that our country's government is following the most recent statements by Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica regarding his country's decision to expel mercenary groups from that Central American territory with expectation. Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Leon Talavera commented on the message.

[Begin recording] We want to take advantage of this opportunity to report to the national and international press that early this morning our Foreign Ministry presented a new diplomatic note to the Honduran Government through its Foreign Secretariat. In that note, we told the Honduran Government that we are following the most recent statement made by its foreign secretary that his country decided to expel mercenaries that have been shamelessly using that territory to attack our country for the past 3 years with expectation.

We added that to facilitate the diligent implementation of that measure by the Honduran Government, we also included extensive information concerning the specific locations of Miskitos, Sumus, and Ramas [Misura] camps on Honduran territory and the main camps in the Honduran Miskito area. We also provided details on Nicaraguan Democratic Force camps in Honduran territory, the specific location in Tegucigalpa of Radio 15 September transmission studios, and the transmission site of the counter-revolutionary Misura radio station in the Honduran Miskito area. In addition, we also provided information concerning other local houses that are being used as mercenary operation centers in Honduran territory.

We believe that the beginning of a new presidential period in Nicaragua marked by Commander Daniel Ortega's inauguration on 10 January is a great opportunity for the Honduran Government to review its previous stand in order for us to work toward the normalization of relations; that is, to bring the two countries diplomatic relations in line with the guidelines established by international law, in other words, proper relations based on not allowing any territory to be used to attack another.

Therefore, moved by a constructive spirit, today we presented this information to the Honduran Government. [end recording]

D'ESCOTO ON 'IMMINENT DANGER' OF U.S. INVASION

PA062233 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1300 GMT 6 Jan 85

[Text] The risks of a U.S. invasion of Nicaragua have not disappeared, as is evidenced by the many military maneuvers being held around this besieged Central American country. This statement was made by Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto Brockman in an interview published in this year's first edition of SOBERANIA, official magazine of the Anti-Imperialist Tribunal of Our America, TANA. In an analysis of the policy of state terrorism practiced by the United States against Nicaragua, Father D'Escoto said that there is imminent danger of an invasion. The foreign minister recalled that in November, Nicaragua experienced its most difficult moments since the triumph of the revolution when its airspace was repeatedly violated by SR-71 spy planes. In conclusion, and after mentioning the Reagan administration's clumsy campaigns against the revolutionary process, Foreign Minister D'Escoto said: Nicaragua trusts that the international organizations, the friendly countries, and all peoples who want peace will help our country to prevent a possible U.S. military invasion.

AMBASSADOR TO U.S. VIEWS FUTURE OF RELATIONS

PA072146 Paris AFP in Spanish 1633 GMT 7 Jan 85

[Text] Managua, 7 Jan (AFP) -- Carlos Tunnerman, Nicaraguan ambassador to Washington, told AFP in Managua today that the installation of new governments in the United States and Nicaragua represents "a new opportunity" to resolve the differences between the two countries through negotiations. Tunnerman added that President Ronald Reagan, who was reelected, must "recognize the fact that the Sandinist revolution is irreversible and will not be destroyed through a military struggle." The Nicaraguan diplomat said that the Nicaraguan revolution "is not and will not be a threat to the United States or its Central American neighbors."

In this regard, he revealed that the Reagan administration is preparing a "white paper" that will be released in the next weeks and "will try to present us as a threat to the United States and our neighbors." "We have proved our government's willingness to achieve peace through our efforts to find negotiated solutions to the regional crisis and our decision to sign the Contadora Group's peace document," he said. So far, only Nicaragua has stated its decision to sign the Contadora Group's document, whereas the other countries in the region and the United States seek modifications to the document.

Tunnerman returned last Sunday to Nicaragua to attend President-elect Daniel Ortega's inaugural ceremony on 10 January. In addition, the diplomat will be sworn in as a deputy in the National Constituent Assembly, even though he will continue as ambassador to the United States.

"The installation of new governments in the United States and Nicaragua in January will be the opportune moment to seek detente between the two countries through a dialogue and negotiations," the diplomat asserted.

The Nicaraguan ambassador said that the American people and a good part of the U.S. Congress "oppose a war against Nicaragua and the renewal of financial aid to the counterrevolutionary groups." "We trust that the U.S. Congress will decide not to renew the aid to the contras," he said. On this topic, he asserted that recent reports about "murders, torture, and ambushes against Nicaraguan civilians by the rebel groups have had a great impact on the people of the United States." Tunnerman defended the Sandinists' right to arm themselves in order to confront the more than 10,000 rebels who operate in the country's northern central, and southern mountains.

INTERIOR MINISTRY ISSUES MEASURES FOR INAUGURATION

PA071833 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 7 Jan 85

[Text] In order to guarantee public order during the events of the inauguration of the president and vice president of the Republic, Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saaverdra and Sergio Ramirez Mercado, the Nicaraguan Interior Ministry has issued the following measures:

1. As of 1800 on 9 January 1985 until 1800 on 10 January 1985 the following police measures will be in effect in Region 3, Managua:

A. It is strictly forbidden to sell alcoholic beverages.

B. It is strictly forbidden to carry firearms, except in the case of military personnel on active duty.

C. It is forbidden to set up booths to sell food, refreshments, souvenirs, or other products at the Plaza de la Revolucion and for 500 meters around it. Sandinist Police Unit No 4, located in Ciudad Jardin, will issue special booth permits beginning 7 January 1985. All interested persons must fulfill the following requirements: obtain a letter from the Sandinist Defense Committees, have a list of the products for sale, and undergo a personal interview.

2. As of 1800 on 9 January until 1800 on 10 January, the transfer, handling, and use of explosives, toxic substances, and oil byproducts is forbidden throughout Nicaragua.

3. Authorities responsible for maintaining public order will impose due police sanctions on the violators of the measures noted above according to the seriousness of each incident.

Issued in Managua on 6 January 1985

[Signed] Public Relations Directorate, Interior Ministry

DELEGATIONS BEGIN ARRIVING FOR INAUGURATION

PA071820 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 7 Jan 85

[Text] Delegations from the United States, Romania, Australia, Zambia, and Peru arrived in Nicaragua last night to attend the inauguration of the president and vice president of the Republic, Commander Daniel Ortega and Sergio Ramirez Mercado. George Nazzari arrived to represent the United States, Nicolae Turturea from Romania, (Jeffrey Rutel) from Australia, Arnold K. Simuchimba from Zambia, and writer Mario Vargas Llosa from Peru. Delegations from Argentina, Honduras, Suriname, Norway, Denmark, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, and the USSR will arrive throughout the day.

GOVERNMENT DECREES NEW TAXES ON INCOME, SERVICES

PA062256 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2031 GMT 5 Jan 85

[By Agustin de Gracia]

[Text] Managua, 5 Jan (ACAN-EFE) -- For Nicaraguans, the year 1985 began with new taxes on most services, such as the tips received by waiters and the sales made by market vendors.

This week the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction issued four decrees establishing taxes on estimated income, on consumption, capital gains, and the establishment of new companies or increased capital. These new taxes coincide with the announcement that this year's budget will be for 28 billion cordobas, equivalent to $2.8 billion, the highest in Central America. The "estimated income law" deals with the low-income levels of the labor or productive sector. It affects professionals, who from now on will have to give receipts for their services and will be forced to register with the Internal Revenue Department. Waiters, bartenders, cooks, and cook's assistants are also included in the new taxes, and they will have to pay taxes on the tips they receive. The bill in any restaurant in Nicaragua will include, in addition to charges for what is consumed, a 15-percent consumer tax and 10 percent for tip. The Internal Revenue Department has the power to decide the annual estimated income for these workers in order to determine what they should pay the state.

The persons who sell merchandise in market stands or any other way are also affected by the income tax law. The amount of tax they must pay the state will be established by an income estimate that takes into consideration the size and location of the business.

The Finance Ministry has also established new taxes on those who rent buildings and get paid in foreign currency. The persons affected by the new tax are those who lease buildings to embassies, international organizations, or to foreign companies. The government will determine the amount of the tax to collect from these services by estimating the annual income in foreign currency, "at the unofficial rate in the market, even if the property owner has not negotiated the foreign currency." The only ones exempted from paying these taxes are persons who submit an official certificate that their foreign currency income has been set at the official rate or those who can submit definite proof that the business has been conducted in cordobas.

The new taxes also affect the purchase of domestic and imported products, the establishment of companies, company mergers or liquidation, and capital gains.

GOVERNMENT, CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES MEET PRIVATELY

PA051801 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Text] Two representatives of the revolutionary government, two from the Episcopal Conference, and the Vatican delegate to Nicaragua met in a very private meeting and discussed state-church relations, an AFP dispatch has reported. The revolutionary government was represented by Rene Nunez, secretary of the FSLN National Directorate, and Rodrigo Reyes, secretary of the government junta; the Episcopal Conference was represented by Msgrs Pablo Antonio Vega and Bosco Vivas; and the Vatican was represented by Pablo Smith. No information has been released on the talks held at the apostolic nuncio's office, but it has been said that these talks dealt with the country's situation and state-church relations, the report added.

URBINA LARA CLAIMS FORCED TO SEEK ASYLUM

PA071834 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 7 Jan 85

[Text] Law student Jose Manuel Urbina Lara, who allegedly sought political asylum, has charged that he was forced by his parents to seek asylum in the Costa Rican Embassy at the instigation of lawyer Salomon Calvo Arrieta.

Urbina Lara accuses Calvo Arrieta of swindling his parents out of 10,000 cordobas and of trying to present his case as that of a political asylum seeker opposed to defense of the fatherland. Urbina said this was false and expressed his desire to join in the defense of the revolution.

ARRESTED CORRESPONDENT'S WIFE SEEKS CDN SUPPORT

PA071524 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 7 Jan 85

[Text] Despite the fact that the Nicaraguan Interior Ministry recently announced that it will not allow correspondents for counterrevolutionary radio stations or other counterrevolutionary news media in Nicaragua, Ivette Ramirez, the wife of Salomon Calvo Arrieta, former correspondent for the counterrevolutionary Radio Impacto, has said that she will occupy his position on an interim basis. Calvo Arrieta was arrested 1 week ago for issuing reports that distort and discredit Nicaraguan reality. In a Nicaraguan Democratic Coordinating Board (CDN) ceremony honoring its president, Eduardo Rivas Gasteazoro, the wife of Calvo Arrieta asked the members of that extreme-right political organization to press for her husband's release. Meanwhile, the CDN's bar association has stated that it will take on the defense of Salomon Calvo Arrieta, who is charged with supplying information to Radio 15 September, voice of the self-styled Nicaraguan Democratic Force, FDN, which operates from Honduras to attack and murder the Nicaraguan people.

MISURA'S FAGOTH ON EPS PRISONERS, TASVA PAUNI CLASH

PA032032 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 3 Jan 85

[Text] All communications with the town of Tasva Pauni in Nicaragua's Atlantic region have been lost. The Miskitos, Sumus, and Ramas [Misura] and Democratic Revolutionary Alliance [ARDE] forces are clashing with the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] in Tasva Pauni. Misura Commander Steadman Fagoth Muller spoke with this station to explain the situation. He indicated that the fate of the 23 Sandinist prisoners held by his forces and the situation of his fighters and the ARDE group suporting them are unknown. Fagoth Muller read an official communique stating:

[Begin recording] The Misura insurgent forces fighting on Nicaragua's Atlantic coast report to the world that: The Misura forces that fight the infamous and bloodthirsty Nicaraguan communist regime have always maintained Christian feelings, even when we have been at a disadvantage against the Soviet empire. We have never committed an act that is contrary to morals, law, and justice, even though we have been the victims of assassinations, rapes, theft, repression, concentration camps, and everything that constitutes the Sandinist form of holding power.

We have stated that we captured 23 members of the EPS when we attacked the Tasva Pauni military base in southern Zelaya. As a means of pressure, we called on the Contadora Group to mediate in the exchange of the 23 prisoners for 10 of our own who are being held in Nicaragua jails. [Words indistinct] immoral practices of the Sandinists, the world would not have known that we captured 23 EPS members. If we had wanted to execute them, there would have been no force to prevent this and no other witness than God, who guides our liberation struggle with love.

We must also make it clear that our commando group, which was initially comprised of 70 men, is being attacked with heavy artillery by sea, land, and air. In that fierce battle, the fighters for freedom and their prisoners could be killed by government fire.

We must report that as a result of this all-out battle, we have lost all communications with our fighting unit. We place our trust in divine providence to enlighten the Sandinists so that they will understand the seriousness of the situation. We know that we are a thorn in the side of the communist mass propaganda media precisely because we are struggling for freedom and justice.

For God and the fatherland, we will win.

This communique is signed by Steadman Fagoth Muller. [end recording]

The Misura commander added that his commandos have always respected the lives of their prisoners and that the announcement that he made yesterday about executing the 23 Sandinist pirsoners in Tasva Pauni is a measure of extreme pressure to obtain a prisoner exchange with the Sandinists. The Misura commmander also said that the fate of his men and the Sandinist prisoners will be known in the next few hours due to the indiscriminate EPS attacks on the positions in Tasva Pauni.

Further Report

PA052238 San Jose Impacto in Spanish 2013 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Text] The situation at the Indian community of Tasba Pauni in Nicaragua's Atlantic side has continued to be very difficult and all telephone contact with combatants fighting the EPS has been lost. This radio station talked with Steadman Fagoth, guerrilla commander of the Miskito, Sumu, and Rama [Misura] organization. Here is the interview with the commander.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Commander Fagoth, what is your situation at the Tasba Pauni community?

[Fagoth] Before discussing our current situation, we want to report to the world the chronologlical sequence of Tasba Pauni events. This report is for the good of the international opinion because efforts have been made to distort the true situation about what is happening in this area.

1. After 5 hours of combat on 25 December, 25 Misura combatants took 23 Sandinists prisoners at the Tasba Pauni military base, 35 km north of Bluefields. After the action, 45 young men now armed with weapons taken from the enemy joined us.

2. We reported on these events to the world on 27 December.

3. On 29 December, 700 Sandinists landed at Tasba Pauni and shelled the community with mortars. In addition, they bombed the villages, leaving a large number of dead and wounded, whi survivors fled to the region's mountains.

4. We delivered a letter to the Contadora Group countries on 30 December.

5. Also on 30 December, our troops in charge of prisoners continued to be deployed. We suffered two casualties.

6. Another 500 Sandinists landed in the area on 31 December, thus completing a 1,200-man ring of the communist army, despite the fact that we called for a cease-fire in order to exchange the 23 Sandinist prisoners for 10 of our men.

7. A. On 1 January, the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance reported that a contingent had been sent to break the encirclement and thus get our men and the Sandinist prisoners out. The men from this contingent made contact with the Sandinist ring at 1900. B. We suffered four additional casualties, two from rocket fire from helicopters and two by enemy infantry soldiers. C. Commander Flaco informed us that they were low on ammunition.

8. A. At 1600 on 2 January, Commander Freddy reported that they were losing ground and almost out of ammunition. B. On that same day and in order to exert pressure on the Contadora Group, we reported to the world that if there was no cease-fire, we would assume no responsibility for the fate of the prisoners. C. Internal resistance at Puerto Cabezas reported by direct line to BARRICADA, the official publication of the FSLN, that we were respecting the prisoners' lives and that the attacks should stop. Our call was answered by [words indistinct]. D. On 2 January we lost contact. Two things might have happened. I repeat: On the evening of 2 January at 2200, we lost contact. Two things might have happened: A. That as they broke the encirclement with the support of the forces from the south, they lost the radio and therefore, all communication. B. That our fighters and the prisoners were killed in the bombing and the attack of the 1,200 criminals of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS].

10. [As heard] A. If this action has had a tragic outcome the only one responsible is the Sandinist regime in Managua, which at no time has shown concern for the lives of its troops. B. We have sent more troops to the site of these developments. Therefore, if they are alive, we wish to tell the world that our position continues to be to exchange the 23 prisoners for three freedom commands that are in prisons of the ill-fated state security. This has been a chronological report of the developments. Now we have a press communique.

The rebel forces of Misura who are fighting on the Atlantic coast of Nicaragua report to the world: The Misura forces that are fighting the ignominious and censurable communist regime in Nicaragua have always shown Christian sentiment, even as we are at a disadvantage with respect to the Soviet empire. We have never committed actions that go against morals, law, or justice, even when we have been victims of murder, rape, theft, repression, concentration camps, and all the things that constitute the Sandinists' power structure. We have said that we have in our power 23 prisoners of the EPS taken during the occupation of the military base at Tasba Pauni, in southern Zelaya. As a means of exerting pressure we asked the Contadora Group to act as mediator in exchanging the 23 prisoners for 10 of ours that are in Nicaraguan prisons. If we would have used the unique methods that Sandinists practice the world would not have known that we took 23 of their soldiers prisoner. If we wanted to execute them there was nothing to stop us except eyewitnesses and Cod who guides our liberation struggle with love. We must also point out that our command, which was initially made up of 70 men, is being attacked with heavy artillery by sea, land, and air and that the freedom fighters can die in this fierce battle, victims of the government's arms. We also want to point out that as a result of this battle with no quarter we have lost all contact with our fighting unit. However, we trust in God and believe that the Sandinist people will show a hint of humanity and understand the seriousness of this situation. We know that we are the more vulnerable party to Sandinism's massive propaganda machinery. It is enough to know that we fight for freedom and justice. For God and the fatherland we will win.

This communique is signed by Steadman Fagoth Muller, chief of the General Staff of Misura; Roger Herman, Political Commission of Misura; (Adan Artola), Political Commission of Misura; and Teofilo Archibold, also of the Political Commission of Misura. [end recording]

USSR'S BARKAUSKAS ARRIVES EN ROUTE TO NICARAGUA

FL080044 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Jan 85

[Text] Deputy Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, A. Barkauskas arrived today in Cuba heading the USSR delegation to the inauguration of the new president of Nicaragua, Commander Daniel Ortega. Barkauskas was received at the Havana airport by Flavio Bravo, member of the party Central Committee and president of the National Assembly of the People's Government.

SOVIET MEDAL BESTOWED ON FAR CHIEFS, OFFICERS

FL071542 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 7 Jan 85

[Excerpt] By order of the USSR Supreme Soviet, a group of Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] chiefs and officers have been awarded the fraternal combat medal, after taking into account their merits in strengthening the ties of brotherly relations between the two military institutions.

The ceremony held at the Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces was presided over by Division General Abelardo Colome Ibarra, alternate Politburo member, first vice FAR minister, and hero of the Republic of Cuba.

The order bestowing the awards on the Cuban military officers was read by Lieutenant General Dmitriy Taranskiy, who, after congratulating them at one of the activities held commemorating the 26th anniversary of the triumph of the revolution, wished them success and progress in their lives and activities.

Colonel Gustavo Milian Rivero, chief of the FAR's central political directorate, gave a speech on behalf of the officers receiving the medals.

USSR SENDS CONGRATULATORY ANNIVERSARY MESSAGE

FL311453 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 31 Dec 84

[Text] The USSR Presideium of the Supreme Soviet and Counci of Ministers have sent a message to Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of Cuba's Communist Party Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, on the occasion of Cuba's great national anniversary of the revolution.

The message said the 26 years since that memorable day have demonstrated in a convincing and imperishable way the historic significance of the Cuban revolution in the destiny of the liberating struggle of the peoples. The document also said the achievements in the areas of economy, public health, education, and culture place Cuba in a prominent position among developing countries.

Elsewhere, the message points out Cuba's active struggle for the improvement of the international situation and a just political settlement in Central America, its energetic participation in Nonaligned Movement activities, and its solidarity with the states and peoples defending their right for independent development, which have made Cuba worthy of prestige in the entire world.

After emphasizing the strengthening of brotherly ties between Cuba and the socialist countries, the message of the USSR Presidium of the Supreme Soviet and Council of Ministers to Commander in Chief Fidel Castro ends by reiterating the unvarying Soviet solidarity with the Republic of Cuba and the wish for future successes in the creative work and struggle for the preservation and consolidation of peace.

Text of Message

For the text of the CPSU Central Committee, USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, USSR Council of Ministers greetings to Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of Cuba's Communist Party Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, on the 26th anniversary of the revolution, see the Latin America and Caribbean section of the 2 January Soviet Union DAILY REPORT.

POLISH LEADERS GREET CASTRO ON ANNIVERSARY

For the Warsaw TRYBUNA LUDU report of the message sent by Polish Premier Wojciech Jaruzelski and Polish State Council Chairman Henryk Jablonski to Fidel Castro on the anniversary of the Cuban revolution, see page G 13 of the 7 January Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT.

JOINT SCIENTIFIC MEETING WITH FRANCE BEGINS 7 JAN

FL071250 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 7 Jan 85

[Text] The sixth joint Cuban-French scientific-technical cooperation commission meeting will begin today in Havana. The French delegation is headed by Christian Nucci, minister delegate for cooperation and development. The French minister arrived Saturday, and on Sunday visited the Pierre Currie Institute of Tropical Medicine in Cubanacan, Havana. During the visit, the French delegation showed its satisfaction at the Cuban Government's emphasizing the serious and significant work this institute conducts.

Armando Hart Receives Nucci

FL072318 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 7 Jan 85

[Text] Armando Hart Davalos, member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba and minister of culture, has received French Minister Delegate for Cooperation and Development Christian Nucci. The two discussed the cultural aspects contained in the agenda of the sixth session of the joint Cuban-French commission for cultural scientific, and technical cooperation that began to meet today in this capital.

REPORTAGE ON HAVANA CONFERENCE FOR PEACE

Romesh Chandra Speaks

FL072100 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1900 GMT 7 Jan 85

[Text] The president of the World Peace Council, Romesh Chandra, has issued a call to make 1985 the year for building unity among all the antiwar and pro-peace forces.

In his address to the inaugural session of the conference against the arms race and for peace and development, Chandra said the antiwar movement is still not strong enough to dispel the danger of nuclear war. Chandra said that the dialogue between the United States and the USSR had begun in the Swiss city of Geneva and that the problem of the militarization of the is the first on the agenda.

The president of the World Peace Council, Romesh Chandra, pointed out the urgency of taking measures to combat nuclear warfare because a nuclear war could lead to the end of humankind.

The president of the World Peace Council, Romesh Chandra, presented a detailed study of the most recent warlike events in the world, saying that, although the struggle for peace is more intense than ever, it is still not strong enough to avoid nuclear war. He added that in the past (?3) months it has been discovered that the explosion of a specific number of nuclear weapons could cause a nuclear winter. This fatal phenomenon would affect solar heat and energy and so harm all humanity, he warned.

The president of the World Peace Council, Romesh Chandra, described all the steps the United States has taken in its present arms race and quoted statements of our commander in chief, Fidel Castro, on the need to avoid wasting more money on arms and instead to change the world system.

In his address to the conference against the arms race and in favor of people and development, Romesh Chandra said the United States is responsible for the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. He said the same forces that assassinated Indira to keep India from following an independent foreign policy were those that killed Martin Luther King when he supported peace during the American aggression against Vietnam.

Chandra reiterated the need to unify all and forces, saying the struggle of the Salvadoran and Palestinian peoples is the same struggle and forms part of the worldwide struggle for peace.

The president of the World Peace Council, Romesh Chandra, said: We have come to the country of Fidel Castro and his people to gather up the energies we need so the year 1985 will be decisive in the struggle for peace.

Severo Aguirre Addresses Session

FL072154 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1900 GMT 7 Jan 85

[Text] Severo Aguirre del Cristo, president of the Cuban Movement for the Peace and Sovereignty of the Peoples, reiterated today that military confrontation is not the way to resolve problems.

In his address to the inaugural session of the international conference against the arms race and in favor of peace and development, he stressed the need to mobilize the peoples against a war which, in this modern age, would be a nuclear war and would mean the end of humanity. He quoted the words that our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro pronounced at the 34th session of the UN General Assembly when he said that the sound of arms should cease and we should take leave of arms.

The president of the Cuban Movement for the Peace and Sovereignty of the Peoples, Severo Aguirre del Cristo, stressed the right of all peoples to struggle against war and for independence and peace.

FLAVIO BRAVO RECEIVES FIVE UN AMBASSADORS

FL072330 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 7 Jan 85

[Text] Flavio Bravo, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP], has met with the representatives of five nations to the United Nations who arrived in Cuba at the invitation of the Cuban Ministry of Foreign Relations. Flavio explained to the visitors the structure and functioning of the ANPP. Also present were Raul Roa Kouri, vice minister of foreign relations, and Oscar Oramas, Cuban ambassador to the United Nations.

'OUR AMERICA' REPORTS ON CHILEAN 'REPRESSION'

PA071247 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 6 Jan 85

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] Shortly before 1984 ended, a photocopy of a report published by a Venezuelan newspaper was circulated in Chile. The report makes public revealing facts regarding the tortures and murders committed by the repressive corps of Augusto Pinochet's regime. The report contains a lengthy interview with a member of the Chilean Air Force's intelligence service, (Antonio Andres Valenzuela Morales), who, according to his own words, worked with officers of the National Intelligence Center [CNI].

The former agent's confession was recorded in Chile, but the prevailing repression in that country prevented its publication in Chile and it was, therefore, sent to Venezuela where it was published by a Caracas newspaper.

For several hours (Valenzuela Morales) gave details regarding his participation in several repressive actions carried out by the military regime's security corps. Among these actions the most important were the murders of (Arturo Vilavela Araujo), member of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left [MIR] Political Commission; (Lucia Valenzuela); (Sergio Pena); the (Baibel) brothers; and (Carlos Contreras Maluje), leader of the Communist Party of Chile.

Recruited in 1974 by the Chilean Air Force, (Valenzuela Morales) began what he has called his career, under the command of Commander (Edgar Ceballos Jones), known as Cabezas, and worked his way up until 1976 when, ordered by (Roberto Fuentes Morrison), he participated in the arrest and killing of many leaders of the Communist Party of Chile, among which were the murders of the (Baibel Navarrete) brothers, (Miguel Rodriguez Gallardo), and (Carlos Contreras Maluje).

This torturer and member of the Chilean services, recalls that at that time he was working at the Colina Air Force Base, near Santiago. It was at this base that the youngest of the (Baibel) brothers was tortured and shot to death. In his confession (Valenzuela Morales) adds that later the bodies of the (Baibel) brothers were burned and that a similar fate was suffered by (Miguel Rodriguez Gallardo), leader of the Chilean communist youth.

The description of the death of (Carlos Contrera Maluje) is horrifying. (Contreras Maluje), a Communist militant, was tortured all night at the CNI and while being transferred to another place, tried to escape despite his broken wrists. He tried to get the attention of the people around him so that they would be witnesses to his arrest. This is the reason why many people believe that he was arrested on the day he was seen on the street, but he had been in the hands of the torturers for several days. Further into his confession (Valenzuela Morales) describes how (Contreras Maluje) was kicked to death and adds that several other arrested persons were killed at the same place.

(Valenzuela Morales), who until recently was active within the repressive corps of the Chilean dictatorship, detailed his participation in the 1983 operations known as ("Fuente Ovejuna") and ("Hanequeo"). During these operations (Arthuro Villavela), member of the MIR's Political Commission, and five of his companeros were killed. The military regime presented their deaths as having occurred during confrontations when the revolutionaries attacked the security officers. (Valenzuela) explained that at that time the crime was directed by the CNI and that the order was: No one must remain alive. Approximately 60 security officers were involved. (Villavela), (Lucia Valenzuela), and (Sergio Pena) were murdered inside a house that the security officers sprayed with bullets and then set afire. Two other MIR members suffered similar treatment on the same day.

Even though details of the repressive actions of the Chilean military regime have been published on several occasions, this is the first time a torturer reveals how the opposition is killed in that southern country. The statements of the former agent of the repressive service of the Chilean Air Force have also allowed everyone to learn the truth regarding the mass killings of those who oppose Pinochet's regime. Many members of the group of families of missing and arrested persons have been arrested for distributing the photocopies of this report but they have said that, despite the censorship and the state of siege, they will do all they can for the truth to be known.

SOVIET, U.S. FOREIGN MINISTERS MEET IN GENEVA

PA072123 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 7 Jan 85

[Text] In Geneva this morning Soviet Foreign Relations Minister Andrey Gromyko and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz ended their first round of talks on limiting the arms race and establishing guidelines on disarmament talks.

The first meeting took place at the Soviet mission. As was agreed on, the second meeting will be held in the afternoon at the U.S. mission.

The Soviet and U.S. foreign policymakers did not issue a final statement at the conclusion of the 2 and 1/2 hour meeting. Each official was accompanied by four advisers and an interpreter.

On his flight from Washington to Geneva, U.S. Secretary of State Shultz stated that the meeting with the USSR was not intended to draw up substantial agreements.

The Soviet foreign relations minister said in turn that one of his country's objectives will be to end the arms race in outer space and to draw up basic guidelines for reaching mutually acceptable agreements.

EDUCATION MINISTER ON TEACHING YOUTH TO SAVE

FL050130 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Text] Minister of Education and Central Committee member Jose Ramon Fernandez has said that it is necessary to teach youth the concept that saving is vital to the economy and development of Cuba. Fernandez, who is also a Council of Ministers vice president, gave a speech at the first 1985 meeting of the Ministry of Education on analysis and control, at which it was agreed to carry out several measures in the schools which would contribute to saving.

BAHAMAS

3-MEMBER COMMISSION OF INQUIRY SUBMITS REPORT

FL052020 Bridgetown CANA in English 1511 GMT 5 Jan 85

[By Nicki Kelly]

[Excerpts] Nassau, Bahamas, Jan 5, CANA -- By any yardstick, 1984 was one of the most traumatic years in the history of the Bahamas. But 1985 promises to be equally difficult as this small nation struggles for new direction following the disclosures of widespread corruption by a commission of inquiry.

The commission's 500-page report, submitted on December 14, is certain to prolong the fierce debate that erupted in September 1983 when a news report by the U.S. television network NBC alleged that certain cabinet ministers, including Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling, were receiving 100,000 dollars a month in drug payoffs.

The three-member panel appointed by the prime minister to inquire into the whole issue of drug trafficking conducted what observers acknowledge was one of the most thorough investigations on record. But after 500 witnesses, nine months of hearings, and more than 23,000 pages of testimony, the commission failed to agree on a clean bill of health for Sir Lynden.

The fact that the prime minister had for years lived far beyond his means was never in question -- the commission heard from one investigator who said that Pindling and his wife had spent eight times their stated income between 1977 and 1983. Where the commission differed was whether the money was drug-related. Unlike his two colleagues, one English, the other Canadian, the Bahamian-born Anglican bishop of Barbados, Drexel Gomez, said he found the circumstances surrounding the payment of some 3.5 million dollars to Sir Lynden raised great suspicion. The explanations offered for some of the transactions were in his opinion not truthful. Thus he found it impossible to say that the payments were all non-drug related.

The governing Progressive Liberal Party (PLP) has seized on the majority conclusion that there was no evidence to implicate Pindling to assert the prime minister's complete exoneration. He has been vindicated and that is the bottom line, Party Chairman Sean McSweeney said.

On the evidence that we have heard there can be no question that the prime minister and his colleagues, with only one or two excepticns, have been found guilty, insists Kendal Isaacs, leader of the opposing Free National Movement (FNM). The FNM contends that, while the money Sir Lynden accepted may not have been drug-related, he had contravened both his own code of ethics and the law on public disclosure. The FNM has left no doubt it intends to keep agitating until the PLP is removed from office. The commission report, which is not due for parliamentary debate until February 6, has provided the opposition with considerable ammunition.

It portrays a country overwhelmed by drug abuse and riddled with corruption. Some of Sir Lynden's closest friends and political associates have been linked to drug payoffs, money laundering, and influence peddling. For drug smugglers to have operated so openly, corruption must have reached a senior level of government, the commission concluded. A former minister, former senator, and intimate friend of the prime minister, Everette Bannister, were among those the report said had accepted large bribes from drug traffickers. The commission recommended the attorney general take action against all three.

Agriculture Minister George Smith and Senator Andrew Maynard resigned in October, as did Youth Minister Kendal Nottage, whom the commission found had fronted for a member of the American Mafia. Their resignations were part of a major cabinet shake-up triggered by the inquiry and a six-part MIAMI HERALD series headlined: "A Nation For Sale." Within hours, Deputy Prime Minister Arthur Hanna had also resigned and the ministers of housing and tourism were fired for supporting Mr Hanna in his bid to force the prime minister's resignation.

Trimming his cabinet from 13 to nine, Sir Lynden went before the PLP's annual convention 12 days later pledging to correct past mistakes and lead the Bahamas back to international respectability. He emerged from the convention still in control after Hanna decided not to risk splitting the party by forcing a showdown.

Since then, Sir Lynden has worked feverishly to put a new face on his administration by implementing recommendations made at a secret meeting of PLP parliamentarians in September. They urged that the government set about repairing the damage done to U.S.-Bahamian relations by the drug trade, and that a collective effort be made to stimulate the country's flagging economy through domestic and foreign investment.

A year earlier and in subsequent testimony before the commission, both the prime minister and Attorney General Paul Adderley had charged that the NBC allegations were the result of a conspiracy by U.S. law enforcement agencies and the FNM to destabilise the Government of the Bahamas.

Ironically, the commission appears to have had a sobering effect on both governments, underscoring the degree to which the two nations, with less than 100 miles of ocean between them, are dependent on each other for their mutual security. Since the inquiry began, the American ambassador, Dr Lev Dobriansky, has frequently stressed the identity of values between the U.S. and the Bahamas. Our national concern for democratisation in this hemisphere is irrelevant here, Dr Dobriansky told a visiting group of American businesssmen recently.

Meantime, the Bahamas Central Bank has strengthened its surveillance of the financial sector in an effort to curb money laundering. The commission report was highly critical of the way in which the legal profession and banking industry had used the country's secrecy laws to funnel drug money through the islands.

Sir Lynden has made clear he sees no need for an early election regardless of the charges levelled against him. But with the economy showing less than one per cent growth in 1984, new development is rapidly needed to counteract the mounting tide of criticism against his government.

In recent weeks, Bahamian investors have found the wheels of government moving with unprecedented haste after years of battling frustrating bottlenecks. Over the next few months, the government and the Chamber of Commerce will be working together to achieve changes in promoting industry in this country, Chamber President Alex Knowles announced at a joint press conference in November.

The prime minister took much the same message to American investors when he addressed the 8th Miami Conference on Trade, Investment, and Development last month (December). Applications from foreign investors for various projects in the Bahamas were being approved at the rate of about 20 a month, he said, and our efficiency level in dealing with these applications is also improving.

Sir Lynden's political opponents have warned, however, that there is no quick fix for what ails the Bahamian economy. The prime minister himself has admitted that 25 per cent or 105.2 million dollars of the 1985 budget will go to service the national debt.

Nearly half of that is earmarked for payment on a 150 million dollar loan to build the government's new Cable Beach Hotel and casino and other hotel projects. Of the six other hotels bought by the government and administered by the Bahama's Hotel Corporation, three are closed for lack of business. The corporation itself has consistently operated in the red.

Former Housing Minister Hubert Ingraham, dismissed by Sir Lynden during October's cabinet crisis, alleged during the budget debate that, because of a serious cash flow, the government has been using monies borrowed for capital development to cover bloated civil service salaries and repay its loans. Unless Bahamians learn to live within their means, the country is going to be in for hard times in the future with almost catastrophic results, he cautioned.

The Bahamas also faces serious social problems arising from high unemployment, crime, and drug abuse. Last June, one beach warden was killed and three other law enforcement officers seriously wounded within days. The number of sexual attacks spurred a massive street demonstration by nearly 10,000 women demanding tougher laws against sexual offenders. The level of violence has catapulted the Bahamas to a place among Interpol's list of ten most crime-ridden countries.

The question now is whether Sir Lynden's badly tarnished image can carry him through until the next general election in 1987. After 18 years of office, the prime minister has come to enjoy his role as the Caribbean's elder statesman. Last year he was lauded for his chairmanship of the Caribbean Community (Caricom) heads of government conference, held in Nassau. This year he is scheduled to host the November Commonwealth Summit. That is one meeting he certainly does not intend to miss.

BARBADOS

ADAMS ANNOUNCES CABINET CHANGES, APPOINTMENTS

FL071134 Bridgetown CANA in English 1008 GMT 7 Jan 85

[By Reudon Eversley]

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Jan 7, CANA -- Barbados Prime Minister Tom Adams last night announced the creation of a new Ministry of Tourism and the Environment, a reorganisation of the Ministry of Trade and Industry, and the appointment of a new parliamentary secretary in the Ministry of Finance and Planning. Adams, in a televised state of the nation message, indicated the expansion of his cabinet to 13 members, and the other changes were to put government in a better position to handle ongoing programmes and certain new initiatives it plans to undertake this year.

Aaron Truss, appointed temporarily late last year as minister of state responsible for emergency relief in the Prime Minister's Office, will head the new Tourism and Environment Ministry. His appointment takes effect on February 1.

Deputy Prime Minister Bernard St John, who was responsible for tourism for the past eight years, will continue to hold his other portfolios of trade and industry, but assumes responsibility for shipping and the port, which was previously under the Ministry of Transport and Works.

Adams announced the appointment of newly-elected House of Assembly member Owen Arthur as the new parliamentary secretary in the Ministry of Finance and Planning, replacing Senator St Clair Howell, who has resigned from the Senate and goes over to an unnamed government post.

Arthur, a former top civil servant in the same ministry, assumes duties today. His job includes assisting Adams, the minister of finance, with preparation of the budget.

Adams announced the appointment of Herbert Yearwood, chairman of state-owned Caribbean Airways, and community college lecturer, John Jordan, as new government senators to fill seats left vacant by Howell and Arthur, who resigned to contest a by-election in the northern parish of St Peter last November.

The Ministry of Industry and Trade, under the reorganisation, has been split into two divisions -- one to handle trade and industry and the other for international transport comprising civil aviation and shipping.

Adams praised St John for his contribution to the development of tourism, Barbados' number one industry. He took over the department when our island had 220,000 tourists annually spending around 150 million dollars (one Bdos dollar: 50 cents U.S.), the prime minister said. Now we have 350,000 visitors a year spending 550 million dollars and even in this time of depressed European tourism, we are still a top Caribbean destination for British and German tourists, a direct result of the diversification programme Bernard St John instituted on taking office.

The new Ministry of Tourism and the Environment will devote special attention to the physical character of Barbados and to the protection of visitors on the island's beaches and other tourist locations, Adams said. The national conservation commission, which was previously the charge of the Ministry of Housing and Lands, will now fall under the new ministry.

GRENADA

STUDENTS FORMERLY IN CUBA TO ATTEND U.S. SCHOOLS

FL071214 Bridgetown CANA in English 2102 GMT 6 Jan 85

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Jan 6, CANA -- Twenty-one Grenadians who abandoned their studies in Cuba after the October 1983 U.S.-led invasion of the island left the country on Friday to study in American institutions, according to the Government Information Service (GIS). In a statement, GIS said the students would pursue subjects ranging from agriculture, education, and management to finance, accounting, and economics. GIS said the placement was arranged by a senior official of the United States Agency for International Development (U.S. AID) who interviewed the students.

Under the left-wing People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) of slain Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, over 130 Grenadians travelled to the communist Caribbean island of Cuba to take up studies at university level and other istitutions of education. Grenada scaled down its relations with Cuba after the invasion, expelling all Cuban diplomats with the exception of Charge d'Affaires Gaston Diaz, and Governor-General Sir Paul Scoon called on all Grenadian nationals studying in Havana to return home. The exact number of Grenadians on scholarships in Cuba is not known, government officials here say, because the files were destroyed during the invasion by a fire which destroyed the Prime Minister's Office. It is believed that over 50 Grenadians remained in Cuba completing their studies.

PROBLEMS ARISE IN FORMING NEW GOVERNMENT

PM071352 Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD in Dutch 31 Dec 84 p 5

[ANP report: "Difficulties Surround Composition of Surinamese Cabinet"]

[Text] Paramaribo-The Hague, 31 Dec -- In Paramaribo problems have arisen surrounding the formation of a new government. The summit meeting which was to have been held yesterday evening among the military authorities, the trade union movement, and Surinamese industry and commerce, failed to take place for unknown reasons.

This morning, it was still uncertain whether the new Udenhout cabinet would be sworn in today, as was intended. It is possible that only those ministers on whom agreement has been reached will be sworn in.

One of the problems is the reorganization of ministries. The military authorities want the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, which was in the hands of the trade union movement in the outgoing Udenhout government, to be split into two. The trade union movement refuses to accept this "weakening."

Another point of conflict is the new Ministry of "Information and National Formation" [natievorming] that the military authorities want to set up. The number of ministries will probably be increased from 9 to 12 or 13.

Meanwhile, the trade union movement and the military authorities have appointed their representatives to the National Assembly. Later this week the Association of Surinamese Manufacturers will appoint the six representatives of industry and commerce.

The military leadership has named Ulrich Aron as a candidate for the assembly chairmanship. In the Netherlands, Aron was a director of the Tenasu (Back to Suriname) Foundation. He returned in 1983 and became local governor of the Marowijne district.

The representatives of the military authorities also include Charles Mijnals, a member of the National Military Council immediately after the 25 February 1980 coup. The other representatives are Jane Dibosch, Yvonne Baal, O. Bruyne, W. Lens, T. Mahadewsing, K.H. Mahadewsing, S. Djaspang, P. Sewdin, H. Sonikroma, R. Kersenhout, J. Hermelijn, and W. Roseval.

Among the trade union movement's 11 representatives there are 2 representatives each from the Moederbond, C-47, the Progressive Employees Organization and the Public Servants Organization Central Council Union, 1 representative from the youth movement (R. Berghout), 1 from the women's movement (I. Vreugd), and the chairman of the Federation of Improverished Farmers, J. Sital.

Government Sworn In

PM071354 Amsterdam DE VOLKSKRANT in Dutch 2 Jan 85 p 3

[ANP dispatch: "Udenhout Cabinet Belatedly Sworn In in Suriname"]

[Text] Paramaribo -- Almost 12 hours later than first intended the new Surinamese Government was nevertheless sworn in. The cabinet is led by Prime Minister Udenhout and comprises 12 ministers, of whom 5 were named by the military authorities, 4 by the trade union movement, and 3 by the employers' organization. The cabinet will remain in office for a maximum of 27 months, the same length of time as the National Assembly, which will be installed later this month.

During the swearing-in ceremony President Ramdat Misier said that he hopes that the highest priority will be given to cooperation with the National Assembly, which, according to the present plans, will be given legislative powers. Through the assembly, durable democratic structures for the people will be achieved and the economy will be reformed and expanded, the president said. On the subject of economic development, he said that the government will stake out a policy course which will inspire every Surinamer and which will create confidence in Surinamese and foreign entrepreneurs for further investments.

In an address after the swearing-in, Prime Minister Udenhout gave assurances that his cabinet will work with the same effort and determination as the previous government, which was also led by him, on the foundation of what has been achieved hitherto, and will take further steps along the road toward the realization of the goals of the February 1980 revolution.

He also gave assurances that his government will do everything possible to give the necessary support and inspiration in the current session of the National Assembly, which, he said, will to an important extent be the conscience of the people.

Eight of the nine ministers from the previous cabinet are members of the new cabinet. Three ministers are new. These are Norman Kleine of finance and planning; Mr R. Ranjitsing of agriculture, husbandry and fisheries; and engineer J. Abdul of public works, telecommunications, and construction, who was named by the trade union movement. The trade union movement must also name a new labor minister. A decision on that appointment was not reached due to shortage of time.

Marcel Chehin, who represents the Association of Surinamese Industry and Commerce, is not a member of the new cabinet. His organization withdrew in protest at the under representation in the National Assembly which remains to be formed.

It was intended that the National Assembly should be sworn in at the same time as the government. This turned out to be possible, because the names of 6 of its 31 members are not yet known.

ARGENTINA

VICE PRESIDENT ASSESSES NICARAGUAN RELATIONS

PY071610 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1222 GMT 7 Jan 85

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 7 Jan (TELAM) -- Vice President Victor Martinez said today just before leaving for Nicaragua to attend the inauguration of President-elect Daniel Ortega, leader of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN), that Argentina does not have official military representatives in Central America. This is how Victor Martinez reacted to the reports that Colonel Mohammed Ali Seineldyn was an Argentine representative. He added: We no longer have the type of attaches we used to have. All our military attaches in our diplomatic missions only carry out diplomatic tasks and no specific advisory functions.

Regarding the trip of a brigade of the Argentine Communist Party to Nicaragua, Martinez said: According to our Constitution, any citizen has the right to leave and enter Argentine territory, individually or collectively, and we cannot stop Argentine citizens from going to other countries. However, he added: But we want to point out that the only official mission is the one I am heading.

The other delegation members who traveled with Martinez in the presidential airplane T-01 are Elsa Diana Kelly de Guibourg, international relations secretary of the Foreign Ministry; Luis ~~Cacir~~o, coordination secretary of the Senate Presidency; and Raul Ricardez, director for the Central American area of the Foreign Ministry.

Regarding the possibility of displeasure on the part of the U.S. Government as a result of the trip of the Communist brigade, Victor Martinez said: "That is a U.S. concern; for us in the Latin American area, the only Argentine mission is ours." [as received]

Asked if the Argentine delegation has any economic proposal for the Nicaraguan Government, Martinez recalled: We have economic cooperation with Nicaragua, specifically a $45-million loan, in addition to another $5-million loan. He explained that the $45-million loan is for the purchase of agricultural products and machinery, and particularly for railroad cooperation.

BRIEFS

YACYRETA TURBINE SUPPLY -- Buenos Aires, 27 Dec (TELAM) -- The Public Works and Services Ministry has announced that the companies Allis Chalmers and Dominium of Canada will each supply 10 of the 20 turbines for the Yacyreta hydroelectric project. Responses are being awaited from these companies regarding a request for participation of the Argentine and Paraguayan industries in the manufacture of the turbines, and for a review of the quoted prices. [Summary] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0028 GMT 28 Dec 84 PY]

BRAZIL

COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE TO BE LAUNCHED 8 FEB

PY071231 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 7 Jan 85

[Text] The Brazilian Telecommunications Company (Embratel) has insured its satellite, Brasilsat 1, for $23 million. This is the first Brazilian communications satellite and it will be launched on 8 February 1985.